

The Guardian  
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Thursday September 5 1996  
Algeria D 8.50  
Algeria L 2.20  
Andorra F 10  
Austria AS 50  
Austria SD 0.85  
Belgium BF 65  
Belgium L 5.60  
Czechia CZ 100  
Czechia KC 50  
Cyprus C 100  
Denmark DA 15  
Denmark DK 50  
France F 100  
France FR 12  
Germany D 3.50  
Greece G 400  
Hong Kong HK 25  
Hungary F 250  
Ireland IR 105  
Italy I 3.000  
Japan J 1.25  
Jordan JO 0.50  
Kuwait K 0.50  
Lebanon L 3.000  
Lithuania LT 50  
Luxembourg L 50  
Malta M 0.40  
Morocco M 3.50  
Norway N 16  
Oman OR 1.00  
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Portugal P 250  
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Slovenia SL 250  
Spain P 250  
Sweden S 17  
Switzerland SF 3.20  
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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,650

The trials of tennis

## Graf in court (that's Peter, not Steffi)

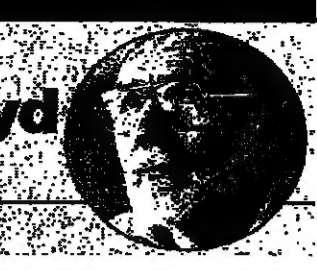
G2 with European weather



Autumn Books

## Unsworth, Spark, Thubron and Ackroyd

Books, G2 pages 8/9



OnLine

## Hunting of the quark

G2 pages 10/13

# Baghdad bows to the gun

### Clinton claims success as Iraqis 'leave Irbil'

Mariam Shahin in Baghdad and Martin Walker

THE United States signalled an end to the Iraqi crisis last night, even as Baghdad's jittery air defences fired into the sky at what they claimed were allied planes. The Pentagon denied its aircraft were anywhere near the city.

A series of explosions set nerves jangling throughout President Saddam Hussein's capital last night. Iraq claimed it was a US missile attack, but the Americans were quick to blame panicky Iraqi gunners rather than US ordnance. "It's not us," the Pentagon said.

Speaking from the Oval Office, President Clinton announced that the US could now confirm that Iraqi forces were making "significant withdrawals" from around the Kurdish city of Irbil which they occupied last weekend, thus precipitating Operation Desert Strike.

"Our mission has been achieved," Mr Clinton said, suggesting with relief that he hoped the crisis could be ending after two days of cruise missile strikes. "This has changed the strategic situation."

Triggering memories of the Desert Storm air bombardment of five years ago, the Baghdad air defence barrage sent civilians hurrying to shelter yesterday during serial clashes in the newly extended no-fly zone over southern Iraq.



This photograph released by the Iraqi media shows women and children in front of a house in southern Iraq allegedly destroyed by US air strikes

Iraqi MIGs hesitantly tested a US air patrol before making off, and an American F-18 jet attacked a radar site with an air-to-ground missile after an early morning flight of 17 cruise missiles were launched to finish the attempted destruction of southern air defences begun on Tuesday.

Residents of Baghdad, who had been looking forward to better days with the United Nations food-for-oil deal, spent yesterday once again huddled around radios and

televisions listening for news of the latest military strikes.

A mood of frustration and disappointment gripped the capital after the second missile attack early yesterday killed one and wounded seven people in the southern provinces.

"The Americans are making it very difficult for us to remain indifferent to their aggression and their constantly changing rules," said Farouk Mahmoud, a retired member of the Iraqi Republican

Guard, President Saddam's elite troops. "Their cowboy attitude will not work forever, even if we are in a much weaker position."

Many Iraqis saw President Saddam's late-night meeting with his air force commander on Tuesday as an indication that the Iraqi leadership did not rule out retaliation. President Saddam announced on Tuesday that Iraq would ignore the no-fly zones and Iraq reserved the right to respond to military aggression.

Iraqis are annoyed at the US extension of the southern no-fly zone, making Baghdad the only city over which Iraqi forces are allowed to fly.

The strikes against the southern cities of Nasiriyah, Kut and Iskandariyah on Tuesday and Basra on Wednesday increased feelings of insecurity in Baghdad. "Do you think they will bomb Baghdad?" was a question residents asked over and over again.

People in the capital have

been monitoring closely what they see as the dismemberment of the alliance against them. Iraqi papers have put much emphasis on the reluctance of former "enemy countries" such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia to allow US missiles to be launched from their territory.

"People feel the mood in the outside world is no longer as anti-Iraq as it used to be and that is encouraging," said Walid Hinawi, a textile shop-owner in Baghdad.

### Crisis countdown

- Saddam Hussein moves planes north of extended no-fly zone
- US launches 14 cruise missiles in second attack
- F-16 attacks Iraqi missile battery after its radar locks on to the jet; two Iraqi MIGs briefly take to the air against the US warplanes
- Russia says the US bombing sets a dangerous precedent; in Washington the Defence Secretary Michael Froman calls the attack moderate and appropriate
- Anti-aircraft fire in Baghdad; US denies it has attacked the capital
- Turkey announces plans for security cordon inside northern Iraq
- Clinton says US mission in Iraq has been achieved and Iraq has withdrawn its forces from the northern Kurdish area



While commentaries in local papers urged Iraqis to resist foreign aggression with their "nails and teeth", people in Baghdad rushed to stock up on goods which quickly increased in price as news spread of the air strikes on three cities.

Iraqis, who have spent five hard years under international economic sanctions, had begun looking forward to the UN brokered food-for-oil deal which was scheduled to take effect this month.

"Things have been becoming better and we are happy not to have war for a while," said Sawwan Sousa, an Iraqi woman who added that all she had known was war since her high school graduation in 1980. "We had two wars and then the economic embargo. We want this to end."

Iraqi crisis, pages 7; Letters, page 8; Commentary, page 9

## BSE 'took Britain aback'

Tim Radford Science Editor

ONE of Britain's leading scientists yesterday revealed that researchers and ministers had been caught "unaware" by the BSE crisis in March.

His words — dealing with the role of science in public life — reinforced what some have claimed for years: that ministers had not been taking the epidemic of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in British herds seriously.

In the first decade of BSE in British herds, agriculture ministers reduced research spending by 25 per cent.

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, rector of Imperial College and formerly a Ministry of Defence chief scientist, raised the matter of public investment in science that might or might not seem important. The national shutdown of a £500 million beef export industry in March was a case in point.

"BSE really caught us unaware," he said. "There had not been that much work on BSE-related conditions before the BSE outbreak. Relevant work had been going on in a few places in a rather academic way. Overnight, it became absolutely vital."

BSE was identified in British dairy herds in 1986, and although there were fears of a link with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in humans, ministers repeatedly assured the public that there was no risk of "catching" CJD from British beef.

They stopped making such assurances on March 20 this year, in a dramatic moment during national science week.

Sir Ronald said that one problem was that scientists could only offer probabilities. "What ministers would like is a firm yes/no. But science is really no different from any other branch of human activity. Occasionally there are clear black and white answers, but very often not."

## UK funds Serb war criminal

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

AN INTERNATIONAL organisation, partly funded by the British government, is bankrolling the election campaign of a notorious Serbian warlord responsible for the war's first wave of ethnic cleansing in which thousands of Muslims were slaughtered.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has the job of ensuring the Bosnian elections on September 14 are fair, is giving £150,000 towards advertising for the extreme nationalist Serb Unity Party. The party is run from neighbouring Serbia by Arkan, a paramilitary commander involved in some of the worst excesses of the war and named by the United States as a war criminal.

His smiling face looks down on Serb voters from thousands of campaign posters funded by the OSCE, which has also helped to pay for pamphlets advocating partition of Bosnia — contrary to last year's Dayton peace accord.



Arkan: Involved in worst excesses of Bosnian war

The money is being paid out of a £2.4 million fund, of which £1.8 million was provided by the German government. The balance is funded by other OSCE members. Britain has given £4.4 million towards the OSCE's mission in Bosnia, but Foreign Office officials said last night they were unsure whether British money had been used directly in the campaign fund.

The OSCE yesterday defended the handout in the interests of free speech. Jean

Quellet, responsible for supervising Bosnian parties, said: "The political campaign funding is basically for all political parties to get their message across. We may not agree with some of them, but we cannot censor them. There is still the right to free speech in this particular country."

Arkan — real name Zelko Raznjatovic — is wanted by Interpol and seven European countries for bank robbery and theft. But his pre-war criminal record pales into insignificance compared with his wartime activities.

In April 1992, his personal militia, the Tigers, rampaged through the eastern town of Bijeljina. Killing Muslim civilians and starting ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. In September 1995, a few weeks before the war ended, the Tigers conducted a final purge of western Bosnia, pulling Muslim men off buses to kill them.

OSCE funds have also been given to the ruling Bosnian Serb party, the SDS, which orchestrated ethnic cleansing throughout the war.

Bosn seeks role, page 6

## Blair sparks tax battle

Larry Elliott, Michael White and Simon Beavis

THE three main political parties fired the opening shots in the long pre-election battle over tax yesterday as Labour displayed its pro-business credentials with pledges to soften the impact of its social policies and cut taxes.

Tony Blair coupled his aim of a new 10p starting rate of income tax with an attempt to assuage business fears about the minimum wage and the European social chapter.

Labour's tax plans were immediately denounced by the Conservatives. John Major said on a visit to Derbyshire: "The day the Labour Party become tax cutters you will hear cats bark and not before."

The Tories will return to the offensive today when they relaunch the controversial demon eyes campaign. Posters will show the eyes appearing in voters' purses and wallets.

Mr Blair told a gathering of 400 business leaders that there was no question of a return to penal tax rates



under Labour, adding: "There were no proposals in our manifesto that require rises in personal taxes."

Instead Labour hopes to convince voters that it is the party of fair taxation by contrasting its proposal for a 10p band with the Conservative objective of abolishing capital gains and inheritance taxes, measures which would benefit the better off.

Michael Jack, the financial

secretary to the Treasury, said Labour's plan would cost £8 billion and dismissed it as "simply an aspiration, an ideal, a soundbite with no substance, their usual menu without prices".

Responding to the taunts that it was "economically illiterate", Labour stressed that it had no intention of introducing the lower rate in one go, and Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said he would cut tax only when it was prudent to do so.

Labour would be more likely to follow the example of the Conservatives and move towards a lower rate in incremental steps. It would start by applying the rate to only a fraction of taxable income, perhaps as little as £500.

Labour's new compact with business, set out in a glossy brochure that is being sent to 10,000 firms, boiled down to five key commitments — a tough stance on public spending and inflation, engagement with Europe, boosting education, to page 2, column 5

Notebook, page 1; Details, page 12; Leader comment, page 8

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Police forces paying £70 to informants are showing large reductions in the numbers of house burglaries.  
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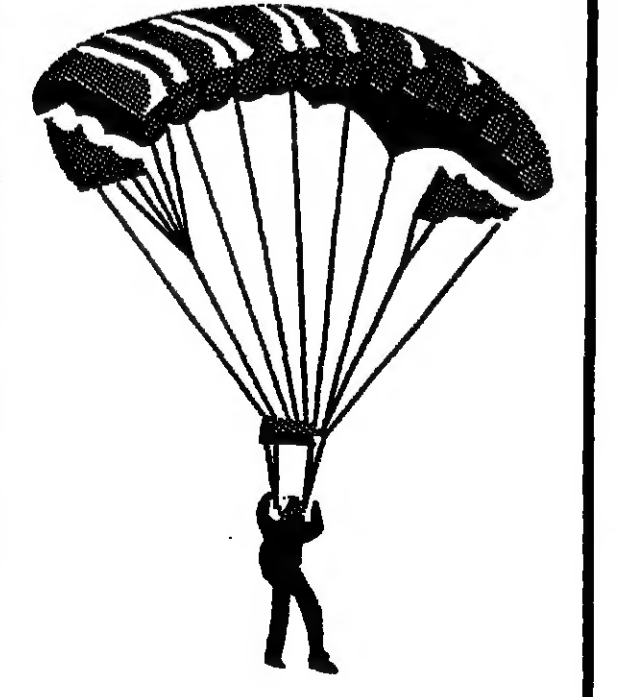
World News  
French teachers and other school staff will strike today over job and budget cuts, opening the way for a new showdown.  
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Finance  
The assets of the manager being investigated over investment fund irregularities at Morgan Grenfell are to be frozen.  
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Sketch

Burglars face a rude awakening



Hannah Pool

THE Sweeney it wasn't. Half a dozen tired, bedraggled police officers waiting patiently in two cars at six in the morning. Ready for action. Ready to ram down a terrified house front door, storm in and arrest a suspected burglar.

Detective Inspector Malcolm Barber - "Guv" - has a call on his mobile. The troops bristle, expecting some action. "You're at the wrong house, Guv," says the voice at the other end.

And so the car drivers pull away from the Walthamstow terrace - number 25. All heads lean out looking for number 127.

Once there, the 2ft red metal battering ram is brought manically out of the car boot. Only one officer has been trained to use the tool and he is not going to let it out of his hands.

Officers crowd outside the door and at last there is a flutter of electricity in the air. The street is empty and quiet. They bang again and again on the door.

The man with the ram tightens his grip. Only then does a colleague try a window which easily opens.

As one officer shimmies through the small window announcing "Police - anyone home?" the others cling to the hope that someone may be in the house.

No such luck. It's the right house but it's empty. A couple of stereos, a video and a pile of papers are carried out to the boot of the car - maybe, just maybe, there are some stolen goods there.

The officers were among the 1,700 police who yesterday raided 700 properties in London as part of Operation Bumblebee, one of the Metropolitan police force's biggest ever blitzes on burglars.

For this crew the early morning adventure did not

get much more exciting. A short time later officers were outside a run-down terraced house hoping to pick up a 19-year-old suspected of being a serial burglar.

His mother answered the door. Half asleep and wrapped in a thick duvet. The lad's brother accused police of picking on the boy. "It's a bloody wonder they don't pick you up," shouts the mother, anxious that her son should get up, get dressed and get out.

Fed up, the officers return to Chingford nick where a juvenile who was being read a long list of charges gave his name away. "I don't remember doing that one," he said.

By the time the rest of the capital was waking, several hundred suspected burglars had been rudely woken up and were being herded into police cells.

More than 300 arrests later the feeling at Scotland Yard was of self-congratulation. At Chingford police station officers crowded into the canteen ordering full breakfasts - the 999 as it has been named.

Detectives cheerily asked their colleagues how it was for them and swapped anecdotes from their morning experiences.

Hailing the initiative a success, Assistant Commissioner Ian Johnston, said: "A substantial amount of property has been recovered including two firearms, a stun gun, CS spray and 54 ft cannabis plants."

"Since Bumblebee started across the capital in June 1993 there have been more than 34,000 arrests in London for burglary."

"Latest figures show that in the last year residential burglary fell by 5 per cent."

Almost a thousand people, he said, had had stolen goods returned to them in the last three years.

Anyone who had been burgled, he said, should turn up at a Bumblebee roadshow coming to a street near you very soon.

In Chingford it was pats on the back all round. The man with the ram meanwhile was counting the days before the next dawn - inevitably dawn - raid.

Police rely more on informants, page 5

How Netanyahu faced up to political reality . . .

"I will not meet with Yasser Arafat." - February 5

"I don't want to, and I hope I never have to." - February 28

"I am not happy about meeting Arafat, but if it seems essential for security to do so, I will consider meeting with him." - April 21

"If I thought this was needed for the security of Israel I would do it . . . I don't rule it out." - June 26

"I don't think it is worthwhile to hold a meeting that is just ceremonial. I want the meeting to be purposeful. When the time comes, it will indeed take place." - August 25

A meeting "is dependent on specific developments which I hope are in the making. This means that when the developments happen, there will be a meeting." - September 1



Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu (left) and Palestinian president Yasser Arafat shake hands for the cameras at their first meeting yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: AHMED JADALLAH

Arafat shaken but not stirred

Token gesture sums up stalled peace process

Derek Brown in Jerusalem and Jessica Barry at the Erez crossing

THREE years ago, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat captured the imagination of the world by shaking hands on the White House lawn.

Yesterday, at last, it was Binyamin Netanyahu's turn, and the symbolism was no less potent. There was no American president; no cheering throng; no cere-

mony; and no soaring rhetoric of peace.

Instead the handshake came tentatively, almost furtively, in a cramped utilitarian meeting room, and was over in an instant. The photographers and film crews had to plead with the two men to do it again for posterity.

That is perhaps why the image broadcast around the world last night was even more lacking in warmth than had been expected of two men deeply separated by mistrust and, in Mr Netanyahu's case at least, loathing of the other.

The peace partners - for so they are, despite appearances - rose on opposite sides of the table, each flanked by glum-looking aides. Mr Netanyahu buttoned his smart grey suit and stretched out his hand, his face impassive.

Mr Arafat, a moment late in rising, reached out, twisting his head to the left to make sure his standard grin was recorded.

And that was it: hardly history, but certainly another landmark on the corkscrew road to peace.

The meeting, at the Erez crossing point on the northern edge of the Gaza Strip, had been eagerly anticipated since the Israeli right swept back to power at the end of May.

Mr Arafat, whose dreams of Palestinian statehood were shattered by that election, desperately needed the meeting. What he did not need was another leaden reminder that the peace process is under new management.

The Israeli prime minister, who had sworn before the May general election never to meet the man he insisted was an unreconstructed terrorist, was on his best moderate-sounding form.

"Both parties reiterate their commitment to the interim agreement and their determination to carry out its implementation," he told a brief press conference. But, he quickly added, the security and well-being of both sides had to be taken into account.

That means Israel is insisting on "modifications" in an

interim agreement, already badly behind schedule, which has given the Palestine Liberation Organisation a scattering of autonomous enclaves in the Gaza Strip and the still mostly occupied West Bank.

Well-informed diplomatic sources said the Palestinians had tried until the last to insist that every part of the existing agreement, negotiated with the last Labour-led Israeli government, should be implemented, including the withdrawal of occupation troops from most of the flashpoint West Bank city of Hebron.

"The Palestinians are talking about implementation. We are talking about modification," an Israeli source said.

What that almost certainly means is that hundreds of Is-

raeli soldiers will stay in a substantial part of the city to guard the 400 or so Jewish settlers while Mr Arafat's PLO forces will be humiliatedly confined to a truncated semi-autonomous area.

Mr Arafat, however, is a man incapable of discourtesy, especially on a public stage. He had been offered a lecture bigger than Mr Netanyahu's, but had to turn it down on the embarrassing grounds that it hid him from view. Swallowing that small blow to his pride, he opted for a simple statement of the inevitable: "I would like to emphasise once again our commitment to co-operation with Israel, our commitment to all aspects of the agreement with Israeli in accordance with agreements signed," he said.

Review

A kind of truth in a relative world

Lyn Gardner

Blinded by the Sun Cottesloe, Royal National Theatre

THERE is something positively Jacobean about Stephen Pollakoff's latest play, half mystery thriller and half revenge tragedy and always wholly compelling even when it seems intent on winding itself into intricate knots.

The Latin inscription at the entrance to Magdalen College Oxford's old Daubeney science laboratory - "without experiment it is not possible to know anything adequately" - dominates the stage, conjuring up a university's shabby chemistry department with a glorious past but uncertain future.

In a final act of either inspiration or revenge, the retiring head of department appoints Al, an unsuccessful scientist but efficient administrator, as his successor. Al's mission is to reinvent the department, attracting sponsorship and students. But he doesn't count on the intrusion of Christopher and Elinor who pursue their own scientific research with an apparent ruthless purity of purpose.

Scientists, suggests one character, are the conjurer's favourite audience because they believe everything they see. So it proves as Christopher announces he has developed the sun battery - an endless source of non-polluting energy. Everyone has reasons for wanting to believe him, but it is Al who is the detective and unravels a kind of truth. As in all Pollakoff's work, the truth is a slippery,

squidgy thing, almost entirely a matter of perspective. Al may convince himself that the colour coded evidence he keeps in plastic bags constitute the real story of what happened but, as Elinor points out, you cannot reduce everything to nice neat patterns. We never know for certain that Christopher's discovery was fraudulent, and in the wake of what becomes known as "the occurrence", Al prospers, building a successful career as a popular science pundit. He ends up destroying the past while paying lip service to its traditions.

The old chemistry lab is pulled down to make way for a department of media studies.

On its simplest level, Pollakoff tells a gripping story of scientific fraudulence and the changing face of modern research in a free market economy where ideas and discoveries must have some currency if they are marketable.

But the play goes far deeper than that, investigating the selective nature of memory and the relativity of truth, and serving as a metaphor for the way we make biased selections from or falsify the past in order to construct an acceptable future for ourselves.

It is beautifully acted by Frances de la Tour as the ageing Elinor, a woman who has become a dinosaur in the new scientific world. Duncan Bell as the suave, self-deceiving Christopher and most of all by Douglas Hodge who suggests that behind Al's flabby exterior and lazy vowels there may be a steely brain. A welcome return to the National and form for Pollakoff.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Worry grows over nurses

David Brindle, Social

NURSING leaders are to call on hospitals and nursing homes to act on the causes of a growing number of complaints against nurses for misconduct, including sexual harassment and assault.

The governing body of the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (UKCC) agreed

yesterday to send every employer of nurses a report outlining areas of concern.

The UKCC is also to commission research into why almost 50 per cent of the nurses summoned to appear before its professional conduct committee are men, when only 9 per cent of the 643,000 qualified workforce is male.

The number of formal complaints against nurses rose from 339 in 1985-86 to 883 in 1994-95.

Hermit family plotted suicide

Lawrence Donagan

A CORONER called for social services to be given increased powers of investigation yesterday after an inquest into the death of a 29-year-old woman who lived like a hermit for more than 15 years, dominating her family.

Karen Morgan's body was discovered at the family home at Bexley, Kent, in May. The inquest at Croydon heard that she had become a recluse at the age of 13. She had not walked for years, and had kept in her bedroom where she slept on bare floorboards and used a bucket for a toilet, which her mother had to empty every day.

The coroner, Paul Rose, said social services should have greater powers to investigate such cases. "It appears they have no power to intervene in this situation because nothing untoward was happening. This should be looked at in the light of this case."

Detective Inspector Robert Harrall told the coroner that Ms Morgan, who died as a result of a brain tumour and bronchial pneumonia, had a strong personality and controlled her family so much that when she died they entered a suicide pact.

The case came to light on May 3 when the parents, Josie and Bob, called for an ambulance after their son, Russell, took a tablet overdose as part of the pact. Karen, who had been dead for several days, had been laid out on her parents' bed.

"They all planned to take their lives with overdoses of sleeping pills but they did not have enough money to buy more," Mr Harrall said.

Police found notes from Ms Morgan instructing her



Karen Morgan before her withdrawal, aged 13

parents how to prepare food before bringing it to the unfurnished room where she lived. "She dominated her family with rituals before she would eat, and wouldn't let them watch certain TV programmes," Mr Harrall said.

The parents agreed to their daughter living at home rather than sending her to a special boarding school for treatment for a psychiatric condition. Over the years callers were turned away and her younger brother became a recluse himself.

Social workers made several attempts to contact the family after Ms Morgan dropped out of school and sought to make her a ward of court, but there was nothing in law to enable them to do so.

Mr Rose said Mr and Mrs Morgan were overwhelmed by their daughter's death. Both are being treated in a Bexley mental hospital but are expected to be released soon. "There is no evidence of Karen being an unwilling detainee. The neglect seems entirely self-imposed," he said.

Labour's 10p pledge opens election war over tax

continued from page 1

tion and skills, promoting small business and improving the infrastructure in partnership with the private sector.

But recognising industry's continuing concerns about the minimum wage and the social chapter, Mr Blair went out of his way to reassure his audience that its interests would not be ignored. The costs of topping up poverty wages through the "spiralling benefit bills for the taxpayer" were £2.5 billion a year, but a figure for the minimum wage would not be "plucked out of the air. It will be done sensibly and in consultation with business, taking account of the economic situation."

Although Labour strategists had not intended the tax row to overshadow Mr Blair's speech, which was greeted warmly by the invited audience, they claimed to be delighted that renewal of last year's 10p pledge had been highlighted by the media.

Mr Blair made no direct mention of it in his speech, and Mr Brown improvised one. The Liberal Democrat spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, picked on Mr Blair's deliberate pledge that he has no current proposal to raise taxes as proof that "Labour's credibility on tax is waver thin".

Dismissing "talk of fantasy tax rates of 10p in the pound" he contrasted it with his own plans to take 750,000 low paid workers out of income tax entirely.

While Mr Brown rested heavily on his promised windfall tax on cash-rich utilities, the Lib Dems are prepared to raise income tax by 1p to help education.

Tory strategists believe they can again clobber both opposition parties, as in the 1992 election, despite the huge tax rises since then.

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مكتبة النور



# MoD's spy computers face sell-off to save cash

Richard Norton-Taylor

**P**ARTS of Britain's intelligence services, the last taboo of the Government's privatisation programme, could be put out to tender in an attempt to save money and increase efficiency.

Ministers are to be presented with a plan to offer private companies the task of running systems of the Defence Intelligence Staff, which is responsible for collecting and analysing information on weapons proliferation, arms sales and military conflicts abroad.

David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman, said yesterday the proposal showed the Government had gone "privatisation mad". It was willing "to put profits before the defence of the realm", he said.

Even knowledge about how an agency is administered tells you a lot about it," a defence analyst warned.

The proposal is part of the Government's Competing for Quality programme, which tests the cost of services provided in-house with prices that would be charged by outside suppliers.

The move, revealed in the latest issue of Computer Weekly, published today, will initially target what the Ministry of Defence describes as "non-core activities" including information technology hardware.

However, sources made it clear that private bidders will be asked to be imaginative in their proposals.

A feasibility study has been sent to Lieutenant-General Sir John Foley, Chief of Defence Intelligence, who has a staff of about 800 military and civilian specialists with a budget of about £70 million.

The Defence Intelligence Staff assesses secret information provided by MI6, MI5, GCHQ and the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre at Brampton, Cam-

bridgeshire, which interprets images from spy satellites. Bidders for the work are likely to include IBM and EDS, the US-based company which runs the Inland Revenue computer system.

The agency, in common with the rest of the Ministry of Defence, has had unhappy experiences with new technology. Problems in installing and maintaining new computers in the DIS headquarters in Whitehall led to huge increases in expenditure.

The DIS has also been accused in Whitehall of spreading its net too wide, assessing economic and political intelligence which is the task of other agencies.

The MoD yesterday played down the significance of the move, saying any privatisation would be limited to "administrative support" and would have nothing to do with national security. However, officials acknowledge that the distinction between core and non-core activities in the DIS is a false one.

They say, for instance, that it is difficult to separate the task of installing computer programmes from the processing of highly classified data. Even the DIS payroll — innocuous on the face of it — contains sensitive material, including the names of DIS staff.

In a statement last night, the MoD said that employees from private firms which successfully bid for new Defence Intelligence Staff contracts would be vetted.

"Vetting will be firmly under government control," it said. Existing DIS staff could be transferred to the companies involved, according to Computer Weekly.

This year GCHQ, the electronic eavesdropping centre in Cheltenham, contracted out engineering work to two companies, Vosper Thornycroft and a US firm, ManTech Advanced Systems International.



Alexander Goudie with one of his pictures of Tam O'Shanter's kirkyard adventures — dismissed as 'good illustration, but not great art' by one critic

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

# Painter's mirth and fun at critics

Scottish artist who is no 'trendy Damien Hirst figure' could make £600,000 from 57 works on a Burns theme



Timothy Clifford: Paintings have 'fire and enthusiasm'

Erlend Clouston on a bulk purchase

**A**S PRESS previews went, it was fairly depressing. Alexander Goudie, a Glasgow artist, had spent more than £20,000 setting up a two-week exhibition of his cycle

of works inspired by the Robert Burns's poem Tam O'Shanter. Instead of entertaining a stream of fawning critics in Edinburgh's grandiose Freemason's Hall, the distinguished 62-year-old painter

had to settle for a solitary freelance photographer.

"He took one look and then said he hadn't realised that Burns was such a prolific painter," Mr Goudie recalled, fingering his crimson bowtie in a slightly pained way.

"We began to wonder if the whole thing was doomed," added his agent, Iain Clark. "We'd asked banks and companies for help, but nobody would give us a penny."

Yesterday it was all so different. Mr Goudie was savouring a crushing victory over the "intellectual mafia" critical of his figurative style, and Mr Clark was eagerly calculating the agent's cut on £600,000. In one of the flamboyant coups for which he is celebrated, Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, liked what he saw on a visit to the Freemason's Hall, and reserved the entire 57-

strong collection. Yesterday he announced his intention to ask for lottery help in the purchase of a show whose catalogue value is £680,000.

Even with a bulk order discount it is certain to represent the National Galleries' record investment in a living Scottish artist.

It was immediately denounced as "a populist move" by Professor Duncan Macmillan, curator of Edinburgh University's Talbot Rice art gallery and the Scotsman's art reviewer. He said the Tam O'Shanter sequence was "good illustration, but not great art," and criticised the mass purchase as "grotesquely out of proportion to anything that has ever been done for the nation's art before".

But Mr Clifford said the paintings had "that fire and enthusiasm that Handel must have had when writing the Messiah".

Despite living off his art for the past 20 years, and selling paintings to, among others, Prince Philip and Billy Connolly, the former lecturer's figurative style has not always appealed to the Scottish arts establishment. In 1987 he secured Britain's biggest post-war art commission, the designs for murals, crockery, carpets and duty-free bags on one of Brittany Ferries' cross-Channel boats.

Mr Goudie said yesterday: "All my life I've been supported by individuals, almost never by institutions," adding: "I only hope the people of Scotland who are pressing this matter will not be put down by the opinions of one or two members of the intellectual and aesthetic mafia."

Mr Goudie's output was stoutly defended by Mr Clark who said: "He's not a trendy, Damien Hirst figure, but he's popular with the public and can move

paint around like no many people can these days."

The purchase represents a switch of ethnic tack by Mr Clifford who has been under fire for helping to raise the £2.6 million which saved Canova's statue of The Three Graces and last month a Gherardo painting for the nation.

All but four of the Burns cycle were executed in a year. Based on sketches for a still-born book project, they trace O'Shanter's adventures with alcohol and supernatural ravens in Alloway kirkyard. Most feature his gallant mare, Meg, prompting Mr Goudie to complain yesterday: "If you paint things like horses, there are people who think they are too whimsical a theme."

The Burns cycle will go on display at the National Gallery of Scottish Art, due to be opened in a former Glasgow post office before the end of the millennium.

# GEC backers gun for Rees-Mogg

Lisa Buckingham

**L**ORD Rees-Mogg, the former editor of the Times and a member of a number of top boardrooms, is expected to be sacrificed in the row between GEC and its major City shareholders over the huge pay package for incoming managing director George Simpson.

Leading investment groups are thought to have secured an understanding that the electronics and engineering giant will overhaul its remuneration committee, chaired by Lord Rees-Mogg, as a result of the fracas over the pay deal, which could be worth up to £10 million over five years. The issue is certain to be raised at tomorrow's annual meeting of GEC.

A senior investment source told the Guardian yesterday: "The institutions expect to see changes in the remuneration committee as evidence that it will be doing its job better in future."

"Shareholders want to see change and, as chairman of the committee, it could be that Lord Rees-Mogg's head will be demanded."

Lord Rees-Mogg has been on the board of GEC since 1981. He heads the remuneration committee — which approved the package for Mr Simpson — alongside GEC's chairman, Lord Prior, and other City alumni.

Investors can protest tomorrow by voting against the re-election of another member of the remuneration committee, but it is understood they consider this too small a prize.

Instead, investors — the insurance and pension fund groups which own more than two thirds of all shares — want more significant changes which indicate the committee will not be bulldozed in future.

Shareholders have already forced the company to climb down on the terms offered to Mr Simpson to ensure any multi-million pound bonuses are more closely tied to the group's performance and determined to pull it more into line with accepted corporate governance behaviour.

It is understood, however, that GEC will not use the meeting to announce changes to its remuneration committee. As happened following the showdown over remuneration for Cedric Brown at British Gas, the company appears to have been put on notice that action is expected in the coming year.

Shareholders are increasingly convinced Mr Simpson's earnings package was presented as a *fait accompli* to the committee which failed to ask tough enough questions about the criteria for bonuses and did not foresee the resulting trouble and confrontation with shareholders.

# £10m 'leg-up' fails to save firm

Board warned of unsafe investment

Vivek Chaudhary in Belfast

**A**COMPANY which received £10 million of government money to set up a factory making compact disc cases in Northern Ireland said yesterday that it is to close less than two years after opening.

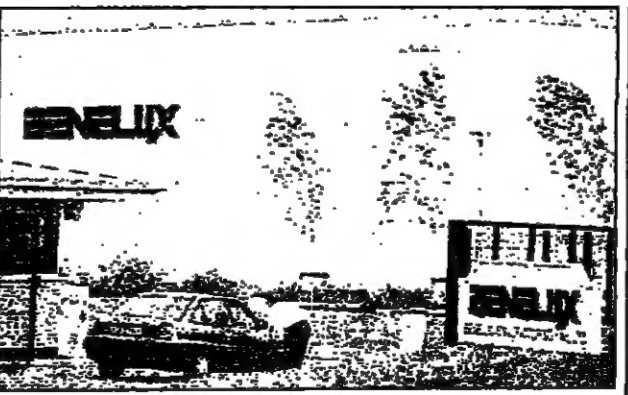
At its peak, Benelux, in Lismavady, County Londonderry, employed 220 people which means the Government's grant worked out at about £450 per worker.

The Internal Development Board (IDB) gave the money to the Hong Kong-based company in return for a promise to create 300 jobs and regenerate an economically deprived area with a male unemployment rate of 20 per cent.

The cash does not have to be repaid by the company and the IDB had been warned before awarding the grant that it was an unsafe investment.

Workers said the factory, which opened in October 1994, had been plagued by production and marketing problems. It is to close tomorrow and has already laid off 100 workers.

The closure is the latest in a long line of failed business ventures in the province that had been set up with government funding. Last year, a German textile company near Belfast closed.



Benelux's factory, closing tomorrow

Lismavady closed with the loss of 300 jobs.

An economist, George Johnson, said Benelux promised to capture up to a quarter of the European market in CD cases. He said on local radio: "There are very serious questions to be asked. I had warned the IDB it was investing a lot of money in a risky business. My concern was that the correct market research had not been done."

William Ross, the Ulster Unionist MP for the area in which Benelux is located, plans to raise the issue of IDB grants with the Northern Ireland select committee.

He said: "The IDB needs to

review its procedures and make sure it is investing in sound businesses. Ten million pounds is a lot of money and this is not the first time this has happened in Northern Ireland. I don't think these grants are being thought out properly and a lot of money is being wasted. I have visited the factory — the whole thing is very impressive but it's no good to anyone now."

"A lot of people gave up other jobs to go and work at Benelux. It's not as if they can get another job because there aren't any around here."

Sharon Douglas, aged 31, who was unemployed for four years before getting a job as a

production operator at Benelux, arrived at the factory yesterday to empty her locker.

"The whole thing has been a waste of money," she said. "I have spoken to some of my colleagues and they are very upset. We thought that with this government money and investment from the company the factory could really do well. It's a real shame. Where will we find jobs? I think most people will be unemployed at least until Christmas."

Sharon O'Leary, one of a handful of workers at the factory yesterday, said: "The Government would have been better off just giving us the £45,000 per worker it's ended up paying. It would have saved us a lot of headache."

Benelux, which invested £20 million of its own money in the venture, claims it was forced to close following an increase in the price of raw materials and changes in the world market for CD boxes. Sales of CDs, however, are reaching record levels with more than 80 million sold in Britain alone last year.

A company spokesman said: "We have made every effort to see if it was possible to secure the long-term future of the operation. This did not prove to be possible and we are very disappointed at this outcome."

**From 1982, when the 13-year-old Steffi made her professional debut, until last year, the tennis star's earnings were estimated at 152 million marks (£66 million) on which by last year only 10 million marks tax had been paid in a country where the top rate is 53 per cent.**

Ian Traynor, Q2 cover story

Should murderers suffer for years or minutes?

The death penalty. Is it legalised murder? Or is it justifiable revenge? Find out Polly Toynbee's view in this week's Radio Times.

**Radio Times**

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

- 1994 — Hualon:** The Taiwanese textile group would have created up to 2,300 jobs had its £160 million plant, backed by a £61 million government grant, gone ahead. But when 34 executives were charged with fraud in Taiwan, the Northern Ireland Office appeared to get cold feet.
- 1989 — Short Brothers:** The privatisation of the province's largest employer cost the taxpayer £900 million. The Government, which hoped for net costs of £800 million, sold the aircraft manufacturer for £30 million. Earlier this year Shorts' latest owner, Fokker, filed for bankruptcy, putting 1,000 jobs at risk.
- 1987 — London Refurbishing Company:** Minutes before a £80 million investment, bringing up to 4,000 jobs on the De Lorean car factory site was due to be announced, it emerged that the company's project manager was an undischarged bankrupt who had served a three-and-a-half year sentence for deception. The Government's £2 million support for the scheme was withdrawn.
- 1984 — Lear Fan:** Production of a revolutionary eight-seater aircraft was supposed to bring 2,800 jobs. When the company collapsed, 400 lost their jobs and the Government a £56 million investment.
- 1982 — De Lorean Cars:** Crashed with the loss of £77 million and more than 2,000 jobs. Only 8,333 cars were built. Founder John De Lorean, whose vision was to create 2,400 jobs — which the Government hoped would help head off support for the IRA — was later acquitted on charges of fraud and cocaine trafficking.
- 1981 — Courtaulds:** The closure of a second of its factories in the province within a month brought the total of jobs lost at the firm's Ulster arm to 1,000. The latter development, at Campsie, cost £50 million to establish. The Government paid £20 million of the bill.



News in brief

**BSE blamed for farmer's suicide**

A FARMER shot himself because he feared the BSE crisis would devastate his business, an inquest at Richmond, North Yorkshire, was told yesterday. The body of cattle and sheep farmer William Rodney, aged 49, was found by a farmhand in a sheep pen in May with a 12 bore shotgun by his side. The inquest was told he was troubled by the BSE crisis and feared he would be unable to sell the 200 cattle he had reared at Leighton Hall Farm, Haaley, part of the Earl of Swinton's estate. The day before his death Mr Rodney visited the local cattle market to check on prices and was devastated to see them a fraction of what he expected. His widow Wendy, 46, said: "He never talked about the problem, though I could see he was worried. He carried everything on his own shoulders." Recording a verdict of suicide, the coroner, Jeremy Cave, said: "It seems he took his own life due to a combination of real concern about BSE, linked with the disappointment of his visit to the cattle mart the day before."

**Boy died awaiting ambulance**

A BOY lay dying in the road as an ambulance was sent to the wrong village 18 miles away after an error in the control room, an inquest was told yesterday. James Dean, aged 14, was holidaying with his grandparents at a caravan park in Brompton-on-Swale, near Richmond, North Yorkshire, in April when he was knocked down by a van. After the inquest at Richmond recorded a verdict of accidental death, his family, from Hull, said they would consider legal action against North Yorkshire Ambulance Trust. The inquest heard that a human error in the ambulance control room led to the nearest emergency vehicle being sent from Northallerton to the wrong Brompton, 18 miles from the accident. The ambulance service, realising the mistake, ordered a different vehicle from Catterick two miles from the scene 40 minutes after the accident. The coroner, Jeremy Cave, was unable to say whether James would have lived if the mistake had not been made.

**Rally warned on terrorism**

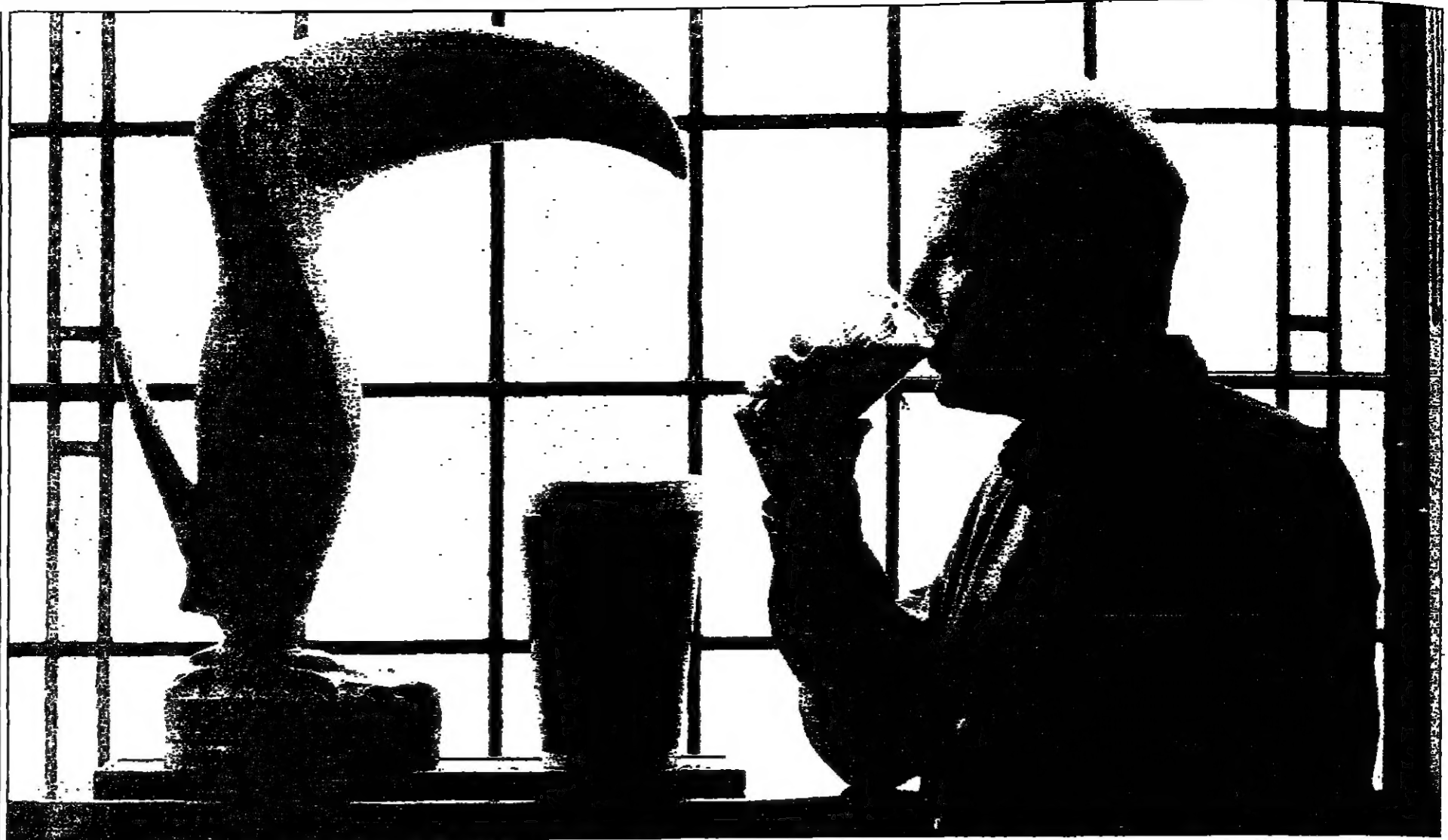
THE Home Office yesterday warned Islamic fundamentalist organisers of a rally to be held in London on Sunday that statements made in support of terrorism would not be tolerated. "This rally will be monitored and anyone who breaks the law, whether by their statements or actions, will face prosecution," the Home Office said in a statement. The Government has been under pressure from countries — including Egypt and Algeria — to ban the Rally for Revival, organised by a group which advocates the creation of a worldwide Islamic state and violent revolution to overthrow the governments of every country in the Middle East. The event, at the 12,000-seat London Arena in Docklands, is expected to feature videotaped messages from some of the world's most notorious terrorists. Speakers at the rally will include Mohammed al-Masari, the Saudi dissident recently given leave to remain in Britain after the courts overturned an attempt to deport him.

**Which? attacks GP ads**

ADVERTISEMENTS urging people to think twice before calling out a GP are confusing and wrong, the Consumers' Association magazine Which? says today. People could be deterred from seeking medical help when they need it, it warns. The £2.75 million advertisements, funded by the Department of Health and backed by the British Medical Association, are designed to cut the number of frivolous calls to doctors. But Which? says there is no evidence that such abuse of the system is commonplace. It argues that the department is confusing and alarming people who at other times are advised to seek medical advice promptly if they are worried. — David Brindle

**Rolling Stone car to be sold**

A 1966 Bentley bought by the Rolling Stones as a "company car" for Keith Richards is to be auctioned by Christie's at Beaulieu, Hampshire, on Saturday. The Bentley 53 Continental Flying Spur, used daily by Richards, is expected to fetch about £40,000.



Ian Livingstone, a collector of Guinness advertising material, has a farewell drink with one of his pieces, due to be auctioned at Christie's on September 11. PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPA MATTHEWS

**Scandal of abuse 'cover-up'**

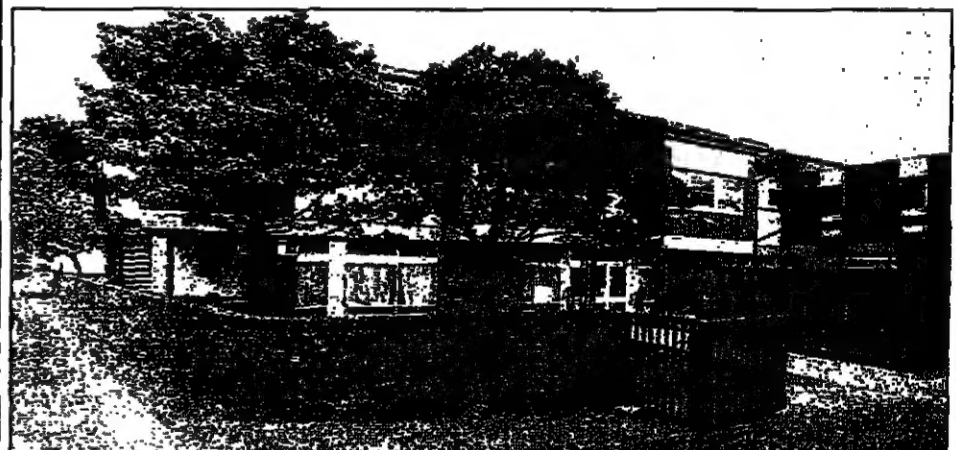
Sarah Boseley reports on council chief's call for inquiry into allegations against social worker who would have been prosecuted if he had not died from Aids

THE chief executive of one of London's poorest and most politically troubled boroughs has recommended an independent inquiry into allegations that a social worker may have sexually abused children in his care, and accusations that the council either mishandled or tried to cover up the affair. Mark Trotter died of Aids-related pneumonia in July last year, aged 34. Had he lived, Merseyside police say they would have prosecuted him for sexually abusing five boys in 1989-91 when he was living and working in a children's home in Liverpool. Trotter left Liverpool for Hackney, east London, where he became a residential social

worker at the Trowbridge House children's home. He lived on the premises with his partner, Bob Barthram, until the home was closed in 1985 under the council's policy of getting children out of institutions and into foster homes. He then became a field social worker — still with contact with children — until his death. In December 1981, months after Trotter joined Hackney, and again in January 1982, he was investigated by the social services department following separate allegations of interference and indecent assault. In December 1984 and January 1989 there were more sexual allegations. Nothing was proved, and Trotter, a Labour Party activ-

ist well known to many councillors, was allowed to continue working with children. Some considered the charges no more than "gay-bashing". Trotter's name had meanwhile come up in Merseyside, where police were involved in a big child abuse inquiry with Cheshire. They found paedophilia was rife in children's homes in both areas. Detective Superintendent Albert Kirby, who led the Jamie Bulger inquiry, is proud of the way they worked closely with social services and the fact that three former care workers from Liverpool were jailed for 15, 13 and 10 years. In July 1995, two weeks after Trotter's death, Merseyside police traced him to London. "We had five very serious allegations of sexual abuse, gross indecency and buggery," said Superintendent Kirby. The police passed the information in August 1995 to Hackney social services. "On our side we had set about giving all possible help and advice with regard to victims, including having Aids tests," he said. "We never heard anything from Hackney at all. It was absolutely a dead duck." If Hackney's full council meeting next week gives the go-ahead to the investigation recommended by the chief executive, Tony Elliston, it will also look at the handling of the case after the letter arrived. Trotter had contact with at least 350 children at the home and others afterwards. A social work manager called Ken Redley, who had resigned after criticism of his management style and was working out his notice, was given the job of tracing them. He lived in council property for the 12 years he spent in Hackney, first at Trowbridge

House and then in a flat above a family support centre. Then with Bob Barthram, his 26-year-old partner who died of Aids in 1994, he took on a council flat-share. In 1992, Barthram complained to the council that Trotter had beaten him and thrown him out for another man, Andrew Mulvey, who died of Aids in April 1994, aged 29. Yesterday Julie Grimble, group secretary of the Labour group on Hackney council, rejected allegations that council members had dragged their feet over the investigation, claiming that only the former chairwoman of social services, Hettie Peters, knew about the Merseyside evidence against Trotter as early as August last year. Other members were not informed until last month. "There is no evidence whatsoever that there has been a political cover-up," she said. "Those who are seeking to make political capital out of this tragic affair should be ashamed. Our first priority has always been, and remains, acting in the best interests of young people who may have been abused whilst in our care." Mr Elliston said the council had a duty to trace young people who might have been abused by Trotter. "We also need to know whether others apart from Trotter may have been involved in child abuse in Hackney. Although at this stage we have no first hand evidence that there has been abuse in Hackney, there is sufficient information for the council to be deeply concerned." There is no suggestion that anyone else at Trowbridge House was involved in child abuse. "There have also been serious allegations of mismanagement and a cover-up and we have a duty to investigate this fully to maintain public confidence in the authority." There is a 24-hour helpline number for anyone with information or concerns about Mark Trotter: 0800 801 837.



Trowbridge House, the former children's home in Hackney where Mark Trotter worked

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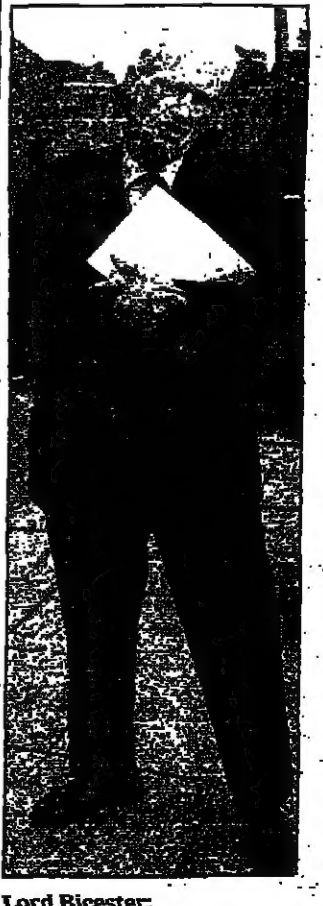
**Dixons**  
There's a great deal going on

**'Artistic' baron launches bid to rejoin peer group**

Martin Wainwright on an eccentric's effort to regain his seat in the House of Lords

AN ELDERLY peer, known fondly for handing out abstract drawings on the streets of York, yesterday launched a fight to resume his place in Britain's government after 31 years in compulsory psychiatric care. The third Baron Bicester, whose grandfather "Ruffin" took the title after chairing the aristocratic stockbroker Morgan Grenfell, began a tribunal appeal to permit his return to the House of Lords. The move follows claims by a friend that the peer, born Angus Edward Vivian Smith, is effectively a "political prisoner" unable to test his family motto *Tenax in Fide* (Steadfast in the Faith) on the crossbenches. Lord Bicester's solicitor, mental health specialist Peter Edwards, also said that the baron's knowledge of people in high places and ability to embarrass them meant that he was being treated differently "than if he was plain old Mr Smith". Detained under the Mental Health Act since 1965, the Old Etonian's regime at the private, Quaker-run Retreat hos-

pital in York is relaxed, with general dances at the annual pantomime and frequent unaccompanied local trips outside the three acre grounds approved by medical staff. Bookmakers and casual acquaintances in York described him as "an amiable gent and a lovely man" who potters about with a pad of A4 paper, offering brightly coloured swirls signed "The Lord Bicester" for charity. Yesterday, he paused briefly at his favourite bookie's in Hull Road to comment on the opening of his appeal tribunal at The Retreat. "I'm in touch" with the House every day," he said, after wryly disclosing that a 57 bet had just popped on the 3.10 at York's Knavesmire racecourse. "I ring them to find out what's going on." His greatest wish, he said, was to take the place of his grandfather and Uncle Randall, the second baron who was High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, in the Lords. Born Angus Edward Vivian Smith, son of a Coldstream Guards colonel and a mother from New York, Lord Bicester was sectioned under the Mental Health Act at the age of 33 and has been treated at a succession of different hospitals. His family has brushed with controversy in the past, particularly over the demolition of their country seat Tulsmore Park, near Bicester, and its replacement with a much-criticised neo-Georgian mansion. Nine years ago, the 3,000 acre estate was bought by the Syrian-born Mr Fikri, Wafiq Said, the businessman and close friend of Mark Thatcher. Earlier this year, Mr Said dropped plans to build a third Tulsmore Park, a £20 million baroque replica of Palladio's Villa Rotunda which would have been the largest new country house in Britain since the Second World War. The Retreat had no comment yesterday on Lord Bicester's case but it is understood that his treatment, in consultation with his trustees, allows the local excursions under discretion given to doctors in Mental Health Act. He is known as "Lord Angus" in a number of local pubs where he courteously offers his artwork with a polite: "I do this for charity; if you would like it, please give me as much as you can afford." Mr Edwards said: "He's a delightful, eccentric, elderly gentleman. If he was plain old Mr Smith, I don't think he would have been locked up for so long. But his eccentricity has the ability to embarrass people in high places, and he knows a lot of them — his family are related to some of them." Community care consultant Nigel David, from Guildford, Surrey, has befriended Lord



Lord Bicester: 'political prisoner'

مكتبة النور



# 'Alcopop' off shelf as row fizzes

Nick Varley

**D**ISTRIBUTION of the latest "alcopop" was stopped last night, only a day after its launch amid controversy about under-age drinking.

Brewers Carlsberg-Tetley announced the decision after criticism from alcohol awareness campaigners and the industry's voluntary regulator, the Portman Group.

Thickhead, a tangerine-flavoured jelly-like drink, will be relaunched after new packaging taking on the concerns about its youth-orientated image, is approved.

Ebbe Dinesen, Carlsberg-Tetley's chief executive, said: "Following discussions with the Portman Group, Carlsberg-Tetley has ceased distribution of Thickhead whilst we repackage the product with a new label."

"The Portman Group believes that the current label appeals too much to drinkers below our target 18-30 age group and we are sufficiently concerned that we have accepted their view."

A "negligible" number of bottles already on sale will remain in the shops but no more will be sent out.

Jean Coussins, director of the Portman Group, welcomed the withdrawal. "It's good news. It's just a pity they didn't get it right first time."

"They came to us at the 11th hour and promised to change the label after hearing our concerns but they went ahead with the launch anyway."

The group claimed the label breached its voluntary code of conduct in two ways: the word alcohol was said to be hidden, while the character whose face adorns the front of the bottle was said to look younger than 18 and was pulling a childish face.

Ms Coussins said: "They promised the artwork for the new design would be on my desk today for my comments."

Nigel Griffiths, Labour consumer affairs spokesman, welcomed the decision to stop distribution. "I think Carlsberg-Tetley were jumping on a bandwagon, but this is a sign that the industry is taking the problem of alcopops seriously."



Paul Jarvis makes a tearful appeal to his estranged wife yesterday. Top right: Margaret Jarvis, who disappeared with sons Christopher and Russell



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN McLELLAN

Cultivating new grasses can prune crime growth, says report

## Uniformed police rely more on informants

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

**A**LARGE expansion in the use of informants paid £70 for every arrest lies behind reductions in household burglaries in some police force areas, according to a new Audit Commission report.

Although some chief constables remain wary of using informants on a large scale, police forces employing "intelligence-led policing" have seen significant improvements in clear-up rates.

The reduction in household burglaries has made up most of the 9 per cent drop in the crime rate between 1993 and 1995.

The Audit Commission cites Hertfordshire as the

most successful force in improving its clear-up rate for burglaries, and reveals that the number of paid informants has tripled to 900 in the past three years in that county. For the first time, uniformed constables have been encouraged to recruit their own informants, and they now run two-thirds of such contacts. Last year, these sources led to an average of two arrests a day and contributed to the 13 per cent increase in solved burglaries.

Before 1993, it was unknown for anyone other than a plain-clothes detective to run informants, who were often paid £5 or £10 for a tip. A medium-sized police force paid out an average of £20,000 a year to informants.

The commission says most forces are making much more

rigorous use of informants, with every suspect interviewed regarded as a possible source of information.

"Police have to be extremely business-like in gathering information," said Kate Flannery, the report's author. "The idea that a detective can solve a crime by studying a spent match in an ashtray is a myth. The majority are solved by someone going to the police and telling them."

The report, *Detecting a Change - Progress in Tackling Crime*, says other recent changes in police practice, particularly those aimed at repeat offenders, have contributed to the overall crime rate reduction.

Examples cited include:

- South Yorkshire police's work with Sheffield housing department to tackle bur-

glaries on a crime-ridden estate. Closed-circuit television cameras, improved locks and high-visibility police patrols reduced burglaries to 23 in nine months from 103 in the previous seven months.

- Dyfed-Powys police trained uniformed officers in taking fingerprints at crime scenes, leading to an extra 330 crimes being solved last year.
- Waverley police in Surrey increased the number of intelligence specialists and strengthened links with beat officers. Their clear-up rate rose from 13 to 30 per cent.

Forces which saw burglaries fall by the largest percentages since 1993 were Surrey, Bedfordshire and Hampshire. Dorset, Cleveland and South Wales, which kept to more traditional methods, saw the largest increases.

## Debut of bomber that flew the coop

Martin Wainwright

**T**HE last of the RAF's lumbering "Ugly Sisters", the cruise missiles of their day during the air campaign against Nazi Germany, has been rescued from ignominious retirement as a Scottish hen-coop.

Sceptics scorned the practicality of reassembling an entire Halifax bomber from 20ft of dropping-scattered fuselage, but enthusiasts have restored the 55,000lb plane to the ranks of surviving veteran aircraft.

"It is extraordinary that not one of the 6,176 Halifaxes survived the scrapyard after the war," said Harry Woodford of the Yorkshire Air Museum near York, which is about to put the four-engined bomber on show. "They never caught the public's imagination like the Lancaster, which I have to admit had a prettier shape."

The fat-bellied bomber has been made up from

scrapyards, air force stores and the French government, which found the correct Hercules engines in a warehouse and a tail-wheel from a crash site in a Paris orchard. Engineers at British Aerospace designed several sections and a missing wing was salvaged from a Hastings bomber.

"It has taken 13 years to finish the jigsaw," said Peter Douthwaite of the museum. He saw thousands of Halifaxes fly in for scrapping at nearby Clifton airfield after the war. Aircraft enthusiasts had long despaired about finding a Halifax. Mr Woodford said: "Halifaxes crashed all over the place, but they were often carrying bombs - as you can imagine, that did not leave very much."

The plane, named Friday the 13th after a Halifax which survived 128 missions, became a practical proposition thanks to a tourist in Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, who recognised the shape of a crofter's hen coop. The farmer, Norman MacKenzie, agreed to evict his hens in 1984 and the corroded aluminium formed the basis for the restoration.

"We still have one problem," said Mr Douthwaite, who has invited surviving crew of Friday the 13th to a ceremony next Friday (the 13th). "Two different crew members are convinced that they painted the Grim Reaper badge we've reproduced on the plane, so we may have a lively party."

## Search for PC's wife who left 'suicide' note

Alan Watkins

**A**NATIONWIDE search to trace the wife of a police officer who has disappeared with her two children after leaving a note threatening suicide.

Margaret Jarvis, 47, who had been estranged from her husband Paul, a 35-year-old police constable, for two years, left her home at Hatfield Peverel, Essex, on Monday night.

There has been no trace of her or the Ford Fiesta she was driving despite extensive searches in the surrounding area and by police forces in Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Norfolk, where there are family associations.

Mrs Jarvis left with her two sons Christopher, 5, and Russell, 8, who were due to return to school after the summer holidays yesterday.

Her husband said at a press conference: "Please come home. Or, if you don't want to do that, please don't harm the children."

PC Jarvis, a policeman for seven years, said he and his wife had a "minor disagreement" on the afternoon she disappeared but the matter had been resolved and he took both boys out with a friend.

When he left the house at 8pm on Monday, she gave no indication that anything was wrong or that she was plan-

ning to leave. The alarm was raised on Tuesday when Mrs Jarvis failed to deliver the children to another relative before going to work.

Police who broke into her bungalow found she had removed the jewellery she normally wore and had left it in the house.

Police say she took no cash or credit cards with her and left without a change of clothing for either herself or her sons.

Detective Superintendent Brian Storey, who is leading the search, said: "I will not disclose the contents of the note, except to say that it causes us grave concern for Margaret and the children. We are doing everything we can to find her and I still hope for a happy conclusion."

The couple had been married for seven years and estranged for two.

PC Jarvis said he and his wife still got on well and shared visits and social occasions with the children.

Mrs Jarvis has two children from her first marriage and is a grandmother of two.

Her first husband died from cancer.

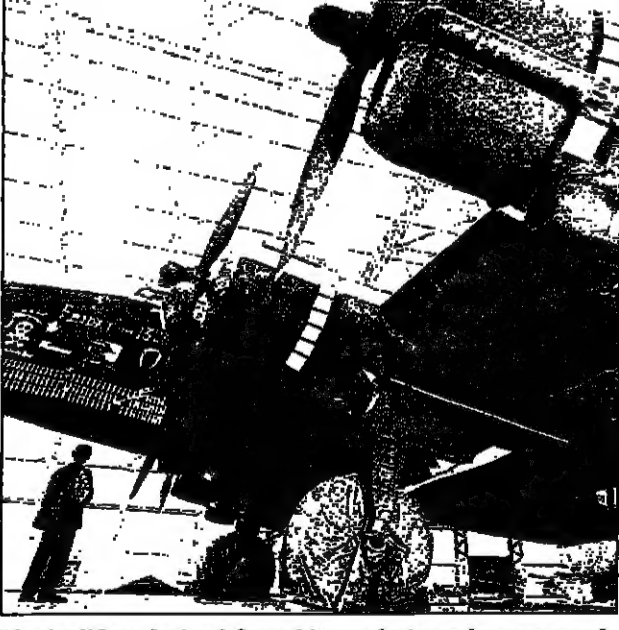
Jean Cuthbert, headmistress of Hatfield Peverel primary school, described Mrs Jarvis as a "model mum," who was very maternal and supportive of her children. She said both boys were bright, intelligent and likeable and had many friends.

**The Guardian INTERNATIONAL**

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The Halifax, derived from bits and pieces in scrapyards and second world war crash sites, took enthusiasts 13 years to rebuild

## Lifer's big squeeze saved jailer choking on orange

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

**I**T may be rare for someone who has taken a life to have the opportunity to save one, but a former miner sentenced to life for murder has made the most of his chance.

Welshman Terence Hughes was being supervised by prison officer Michael Bugg at a hostel in Nottingham prison when he noticed that all was not well with the jailer.

The officer had staggered, apparently unable to breathe, into the room where Mr Hughes was watching television. As a miner, Mr Hughes had leaped about first aid on the outside, and realised Mr Bugg might have been about to choke to death.

Mr Bugg, 51, of Toton, Nottinghamshire, said he had been eating an orange when the telephone rang, and he had tried to swallow a whole segment before answering. But the orange stuck in his

windpipe. At first, Mr Hughes thought that Mr Bugg was playing a joke. Once he realised Mr Bugg could not breathe, he sprang into action.

Mr Bugg could barely express his gratitude, and in different circumstances, might have said he was "choked".

"I would not be here today if it hadn't been for him," he said. "I thank this man from the bottom of my heart."

"He rushed to help me and slapped me hard on the back. When this failed, he grabbed me from behind and performed Heimlich's manoeuvre - squeezing my chest very hard."

"When the orange shot down into my stomach, it was like a champagne cork popping. The first thing I said to him was 'Thank God you were here.'"

Mr Hughes, due to be released later this month, said: "His face had swollen to twice its size. If nobody had been there, I think it would have been tragic."

## No appeal on jail releases

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

**A**N APPEAL to the House of Lords to allow the further early release of prisoners was ruled out yesterday by two High Court judges.

The decision came in a detailed judgment published yesterday by Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Poplewell, which backed Michael Howard's decision to halt the "great escape" of 537 prisoners who were wrongly granted early release.

The judges gave their reasons for dismissing an application from John Naughton, an inmate at Lindholme Prison, near Doncaster, who was serving consecutive 18-month sentences for burglary and possession of cannabis.

According to the judges his argument that the time he spent on remand should be counted against each sentence was "absurd, nonsensical and wholly unarguable".

However, their judgment acknowledged that the law was ambiguous about the way time spent on remand should

be counted for prisoners serving concurrent sentences.

Yesterday Danny Simpson, a Sheffield solicitor, asked the judges to allow an application for habeas corpus on behalf of several inmates, arguing they had not been given sufficient credit for the time they had spent on remand. A test hearing is expected soon.

The judges' decision should clearly be avoided and any attempted further challenge should ideally go before a full divisional court presided over perhaps by the Lord Chief Justice. An alternative, of course, would be to legislate urgently for absolute clarity," said Lord Justice Simon Brown.

The prisons minister, Ann Widdecombe, said she believed yesterday's judgment meant that the "matter is now closed". Fresh guidance is to be sent to prison governors on how to calculate prisoners' release dates based on the High Court judgment.

The Government is expected to bring forward proposals in the autumn to give judges the power to determine how much time spent on remand should be deducted from a prisoner's sentence.

## Child porn cache 'an accident'

**A** SENIOR British diplomat told Customs officers he was unable to determine exactly what was on video tapes before he bought them from Japanese sex shops.

Southwark crown court in south London heard yesterday.

Robert Coghlan, who pleaded not guilty, said a large collection of obscene videos featuring young boys, which

he was accused of smuggling into the country, was built up unintentionally.

The 54-year-old first secretary, stationed for 4½ years in Tokyo, said during an interview read out in court: "I was aware they contained pornographic material, but what I was not aware of was the precise content."

The trial continues.





Groomed for stardom... Horses of the Russian army's Detached Cavalry Regiment are kept filming fit while awaiting the director's call at their barracks outside Moscow and, below, one is taken through its paces in the show ring

## By the right, smile - but no Snickers

The Russians keep a cavalry regiment to act by numbers for the camera. But jobs are getting scarce without the spur of Soviet propaganda subsidies to keep them galloping across the steppes. **James Meek** reports from their barracks at Alabino, outside Moscow



### News in brief

#### Blackmailer bites on food poison scare

**J**APANESE police arrested a man yesterday for threatening to spread the E. coli food poisoning bacterium by injecting his infected body fluids into baked goods. Tokiyuki Asaoka, aged 47, was held on suspicion of attempted extortion after admitting he sent Yamazaki Baking a note saying he would infect their goods unless they paid him 80 million yen (about £370,000). A National Police Agency spokesman, Mamoru Machida, said officers intercepted a telephone call to a number the blackmailer told the company to display in its window so that he could call to make arrangements for picking up the money. Mr Asaoka was traced to his home in the Tokyo suburb of Makuhari. It was the second such incident in recent weeks. On August 24 a man was arrested for posting a threatening letter to the Tokyo headquarters of 7-Eleven Japan demanding a 120 million yen payoff. The bacterium, the O157 strain of E. coli, is blamed for the food poisoning outbreak in Japan which has killed 11 people and made nearly 10,000 ill since June 1. It is spread in food, including undercooked meat and raw vegetables in water and by human contact. Fear of infection has hit restaurants, food growers and butchers especially hard. The health ministry is trying to encourage hygienic practices.

#### Pinochet warns of future coup in Chile

**C**HILE'S former military ruler General Augusto Pinochet hinted yesterday that the country's armed forces could carry out another coup like the one in 1973 that brought them to power for 17 years. Speaking to rightwing supporters in a social club in the capital, Santiago, Gen Pinochet recounted his role in the violent coup in which troops overthrew the elected Marxist

#### Japanese guru faces disciples

The doomsday cult leader Shoko Asahara, whose trial for the poison gas attack on the Tokyo subway in March 1995 resumes tomorrow, is to be confronted by his former followers in court. Disciples of his Aum Shinrikyo sect - including his doctor, Ikuo Hayashi, and Mr Asahara's lieutenant, Yoshihiro Imoto - accuse their guru of ordering the gasings, in which 11 people died and 5,500 were injured. - Reuter.

#### Torture settlement

Argentina has agreed to a monetary settlement for Jose Siderman, a Jewish businessman, aged 85, who was tortured and exiled under the former military regime, in a case against the government being tried in a Los Angeles court. - New York Times.

#### Anti-terror drive

The FBI plans to transfer 500 United States agents to counter-terrorism duties to ease the strain of simulta-

neous investigations into the TWA 800 crash and the Atlanta Centennial Park bombing, and in anticipation of increased terrorism. *writes Ian Katz in New York.*

#### Army 'hostages'

Human Rights Watch/Americas yesterday urged leftwing rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to secure the safe release of about 60 soldiers seized in an attack on a military base last Friday. - Reuter.

#### Spy doll

Russia expelled a high-ranking Swedish diplomat for espionage earlier this year after catching one of his couriers in St Petersburg paying £1,300 for a matryoshka doll with film of classified documents hidden inside. Russian media reported yesterday. - AP.

#### Elephant killings

Two hundred elephants were found slaughtered in Congo, 500 miles north of the capital Brazzaville, in what authorities said yesterday was the country's worst massacre by poachers. - AP.

"If you order more than 50, we can go down to 100,000 roubles," said the colonel. The regiment was brought into being in 1962 by the director Sergei Bondarchuk for the Soviet film version of War and Peace. Bondarchuk, a man of suitably Napoleonic ambitions, focused heavily on the war aspect of Leo Tolstoy's novel and insisted on a division-sized unit to recreate the clash of hussars and cuirassiers at Borodino - more than 1,000 horses.

It had been expected that the regiment would be disbanded when shooting ended, but it was still around by 1967, when it trotted through Red Square in Russian civil war costume for the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. The rest is cinematic history.

"Of all the arts," said Lenin in a quote adorning the regimental museum, "cinema is, for us, the most important." Although it belongs nominally to the army, uses conscripts and is subject to military discipline, the regiment used to be financed and effectively run by the Soviet state film industry.

The soldiers lived a nomadic life, travelling by train and horse-box across the vast spaces of the Soviet Union, one month becoming Turkmen raiders in the Central Asian desert, another Mongol Tatars on the steppe, the next Petrize officers bobbing through the snow around Leningrad in tricorne hats.

They fulfill the director's instructions like soldiers, said the colonel, not like actors. "We have a set of

rules in which everything is laid down. If you're ordered to smile, the order will be carried out, and carried out well." Col Gerasimenko refused to say how many horses the regiment keeps now - a military secret? - but it seems to be less than 100. It has been a long time since the last job, a one-minute television advert for the commercial bank Imperial.

There are limits, said Sub-Colonel Igor Peskov. "It's not for us to judge whether a subject is good or not. The state cinema committee decides what is art. We just fulfill orders."

"But we are military people, after all, and we wouldn't allow ourselves to advertise some kind of yogurt or Snickers." There is hope. The Oscar-winning director Nikita Mikhalkov has ordered 50 horses and riders for up to 10 days for a historical film to be shot outside Nizhny Novgorod next month.

Gen Pinochet, aged 80, is still commander-in-chief of the army and the undisputed ideological leader of the armed forces. The statement may have been a reference to the public works minister, Ricardo Lagos, a socialist and Pinochet opponent during military rule who has a wide lead in public opinion polls looking forward to presidential elections in 1999. - Reuter.

#### Paris moves with the times

**F**RANCE is to end the practice of changing its clocks twice a year, it was announced yesterday. "The biennial change in the time is less and less understood by our fellow citizens and is of no economic interest," the prime minister, Alain Juppé, wrote to Francois-Michel Connot, a member of parliament on a commission studying the matter. The letter was made public by the prime minister's office. France must now decide when the present practice will end. The decision will determine whether the country is consistently an hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (as it now is in winter) or two hours ahead (as in summer).

Mr Juppé asked Mr Connot to prepare his recommendations within six months and to explain the new position to the European Union. - Reuter.

### Anger over cuts threatens 'hot autumn' in France

## Teachers kick off protest season

Paul Webster in Paris

**I**N A premature start to France's "hot autumn" thousands of teachers and other school staff will strike today over budget and a new showdown over education, an issue which has troubled rightwing governments since 1988. Only members of the non-party aligned Force Ouvrière will march today, but all other primary, secondary and high-school teachers will join a national strike on September 30 that is likely to be followed by joint action with university staff and students.

President Jacques Chirac, who was a minister during the student revolt of 1986 and prime minister during mass education protests in 1986, faces a second consecutive year of militant action in schools and universities after last autumn's marches by workers and students.

Teachers and students have a powerful following in the Socialist and Communist parties, which believe that the "hot autumn" could topple

Alain Juppé's government and precipitate an election.

Guy Le Néouannic, leader of the national teachers' union, FEN, said after meeting leaders of other school staff lobbies: "We are faced with a situation which we have never seen before in which the real education minister is the budget minister."

Mr Juppé has been forced to make education cuts as part of an austerity programme to meet European Union single currency conditions and make room for promised tax cuts. Teachers' jobs will be cut for the first time since the war - by 2,300 - on the grounds that the child population is dropping.

Trade unions, who say that the fall is equivalent to only one pupil a class, have drawn up a list of complaints, among them the poor treatment of probationary and auxiliary teachers. They believe that by eliminating overtime for the 600,000 teachers with permanent posts, 15,000 full-time jobs can be created. Without this change, they expect thousands of teachers will be made redundant.

Michel Deschamps, who heads the teaching unions' federation, said he was convinced the government was ready to abandon the priority given to education. Under the Socialist government ousted in 1983, education spending was raised above that of defence.

The fact that teachers decided to strike on the day primary schools went back, and a week before the reopening of secondary schools, has emphasised the political nature of the protest which was planned through the summer break in consultation with leftwing politicians.

But the signal to strike was not given until after a meeting with the education minister, Francois Bayrou, who made it clear there would be no concessions (a position he took in 1983 when he had to back down in the face of street protests over selection for university places).

Other public sector unions are meeting next week to plan civil service and public transport stoppages because of high unemployment, welfare cuts and pay freezes. A year ago France was brought to a standstill by strikes.

## Bonn strives for bigger military role in Bosnia

Ian Traynor in Bonn

**G**ERMANY is pushing for a slimmed-down Nato force to remain in Bosnia when the soldiers' mandate expires at the end of the year and wants to commit German combat troops for the first time.

In the past few days, politicians from Chancellor Helmut Kohl down have sent out strong signals that Germany is ready to increase its participation in the peacekeeping mission. Bonn is conferring with Paris, Washington, Moscow and London on the likely configuration of a Nato presence next year.

The foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said on Tuesday that a force would be needed next year because Bosnia would still be unstable when the Nato mandate ran out. Volker Rühle, the defence minister, has spoken of a

20,000-strong force remaining next year, down from almost 60,000 troops in Bosnia now. He is seeking cross-party support to prepare public opinion for a full German combat role in a renewed mission.

Senior defence and foreign ministry officials returned from a fact-finding trip to Bosnia to recommend that the German contribution next year "not differ in quality from that of our allies".

At talks with the French president, Jacques Chirac, in Bonn on Sunday, Mr Kohl revised his earlier opposition to dispatching German combat troops to any zone occupied by the Nazis in the second world war. During the war Bosnia was incorporated into the Nazi puppet state of fascist Croatia.

Asked about sending ground troops, Mr Kohl said because the world had changed we need to think about this.

The issue of full German involvement is likely to arise tomorrow when the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, delivers a speech in the south German city of Stuttgart on European security.

Over the past two years, Mr Kohl has moved in stages to overcome a legacy of the Nazi years - the constitutional bar on deployment overseas of German armed forces.

The bar has been lifted by the constitutional court and the government gained support for dispatching military aircraft to help police the no-fly zone over Bosnia.

But the German role in the present US-led Nato mission has been confined to a few medical and logistical units based only in Croatia. Germany's Nato allies are keen to see Bonn play a full role in Bosnia and in future hotspots where Nato may be asked to keep the peace.

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مركزنا الأصلي



IRAQI CRISIS: US planes clash with ground defences • Russia leads protests • Baghdad secret police patrol Irbil

# Allies pin down Saddam's forces

### The battles/Turkey to set up a security cordon against the Kurds, writes Martin Walker

UNITED STATES warplanes and Iraqi ground defences clashed yesterday south of Baghdad while Turkey threatened to take action against Kurdish guerrillas reported to be massing near Iraq's northern border.

A US F-16 fighter plane fired a missile at an Iraqi anti-aircraft SAM-6 site in southern Iraq yesterday, and two Iraqi MIG jets briefly followed another US air patrol, only hours after a second wave of 14 sea-launched cruise missiles had supposedly made the new no-fly zone safe for allied warplanes.

The F-16 fired as the Iraqi radar "locked on", the first clash in what threatens to be a new phase, bringing the prospect of allied casualties or even pilot hostages.

Meanwhile, Turkey alerted troops and announced plans for a "security cordon" inside northern Iraq to seal its porous border to Kurdish guerrillas.

"You call it what you like... it is a question of five or 10 kilometers," a foreign ministry spokesman said, when asked how deep the security cordon would go.

He said that Turkey had asked the US about the plan, but had not yet received a reply.

Turkey, which also warned it would not admit Kurdish refugees, claimed it faced menacing movements by guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), whose campaign against Ankara has been based in northern Iraq. The Turkish military de-

ployment, looking uncomfortably similar to last year's attack PKK bases, raises the prospect of fresh fighting in a region already turbulent with Kurdish factions, one supported by Iraqi ground troops and the other by Iran. President Bill Clinton's cruise missile strikes were targeted at southern Iraq to avoid involvement in the baffling complexities of Kurdish politics. But air clashes in the south, and Turkish activity in the north, add weight to Russian warnings that regional

### The Gulf war coalition will survive; we have allied support

anarchy and a wider war could be looming.

British, French and US warplanes took off from Saudi Arabian airbases to enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, but France said its jets did not cross the 32nd parallel into the US-declared extension, which stretches to the Baghdad suburbs.

Their way was cleared by a second cruise missile strike against four air defence targets which had been hit the previous day but were believed to remain a threat.

More than half the MIG jets observed on Iraqi bases in the extended no-fly zones were withdrawn to bases north of Baghdad yesterday, the Pentagon said. The planes that

remained were thought to be unserviceable.

Described by the Pentagon as a "mop-up mission", the second strike was also a warning to Saddam Hussein that the bombardment could continue at will.

It was followed by combat air patrols by French Mirage jets, British Tornados and US F-16s, all directed by a US air force 93 Airborne Warning and Control aircraft and refuelled by US tankers.

"The Gulf war coalition will survive," the US assistant defence secretary, Walter Slocumbe, said yesterday. "We have the allied support to carry out our mission of containment and deterrence."

He spoke as Britain's Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, visited the Pentagon for talks that were pre-arranged but whose timing symbolised Britain's role as the only US ally to give unequivocal diplomatic and military support.

"We were fully consulted by you. We share your analysis of Saddam's dangerous record," Mr Portillo told the US defence secretary, William Perry. "We were very pleased that US targeting was designed to minimise the loss of civilian life."

But the Guardian has learned from diplomatic sources of a serious setback for British and US diplomacy at the weekend, in the failure to gain permission from Turkey or Jordan to use their airbases or airspaces.

Britain suggested last week that the allies should expand the no-fly zone in the north — necessitating the use of Turkey's Incirlik base and Jordan's Azrak base.

The Saudi government also refused to extend a corridor in western Iraq, obliging the US and Britain to settle for an extended zone in the south instead of the north.



An Iraqi boy stands in the ruins of a house in southern Iraq allegedly hit by a US missile. According to the Iraqis, five soldiers were killed and 19 people wounded in the attack.

### International opinion/ Ian Black in London and Mark Tran in New York report on the growing number of countries opposing the attacks

RUSSIA led a chorus of international criticism of "catastrophic" US attacks against Iraq yesterday. Britain lobbied to win support for Washington, and France called for crucial humanitarian relief to go ahead.

In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman called the cruise attacks "very dangerous" and "impermissible". Russia's foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said in Bonn: "It's a very dangerous situation, a precedent for the future."

Britain, one of the few countries to offer Mr Clinton total backing, supported the second round of air strikes and lobbied at the United Nations in New York for a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from northern Iraq and the resumption of talks between rival Kurdish factions.

British officials said they hoped to find a formula that would win the backing of France, Russia and China by focusing on Iraq and not mentioning US military action.

Intense Anglo-American consultations continued in London today with a meeting between the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, touring Europe to rally support.

The Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, was in Washington for talks with his US counterpart, William Perry. He called the US move "moderate and proportionate".

But disarray in the Western camp deepened yesterday when France indicated it had not agreed in advance to the extension of the no-fly zone, which the three Western powers have policed since a US-led coalition drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991.

Yesterday French planes kept south of the 32nd parallel, not entering the extended zone.

Paris, pursuing an increasingly independent policy in the Middle East in general and over Iraq in particular, also called for new negotiations to ensure that UN resolution 686, allowing Baghdad

to use the proceeds of oil sales for food and medical supplies, could come into force as soon as possible.

Divisions were evident in Brussels too, where the European Union postponed issuing a joint statement on the US attacks. The issue is likely to dominate next weekend's informal meeting of EU foreign ministers. The Irish prime minister, John Bruton, said: "Force is not the best way of resolving this particularly difficult issue."

EU diplomats said Britain had pushed at a meeting of senior officials on Tuesday for a strong statement supporting the US action but others, notably France, had resisted.

Repercussions were also felt in Turkey, where diplo-

### 'Force is not the best way of resolving this difficult issue'

mats complained that the US had not consulted the country's Islamist prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, putting at risk Western enforcement of the no-fly zone over Iraq's rebel north.

Nor, they said, had Washington asked Nato-member Turkey for permission to use its Incirlik airbase to stage the attacks, fearing a rebuff.

China, a permanent member of the Security Council, complained the air strike served "Clinton's need to strengthen his image... at home so as to win the upcoming presidential elections".

Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, called the second cruise missile attack "tough but right".

In New York, meanwhile, it emerged that UN weapons inspection teams have been forced to suspend their monitoring activities in Iraq.

Together over the tyrant, page 9  
Letters, page 8

## Countdown to launch

THE following chronology of events leading up to the White House decision to bomb Iraq is taken from briefings by and interviews with government officials.

**Monday, August 26**  
Intelligence that Kurdish factions has invited Saddam Hussein to join the fight is confirmed by spy satellite photographs showing a significant build-up of Republican Guard forces.

Clinton, on the second day of whistle-stop trip to the Democratic convention, is informed. National security agencies' staff begin regular planning sessions.

Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state, prepares for London talks between faction leaders.

**Wednesday, August 28**  
Intelligence officials tell the White House they expect an attack on Irbil. Clinton ap-

proves a strongly worded warning to Iraq. Britain adds its name.

**Thursday August 29**  
Clinton practices his nomination acceptance speech and measures military options. Enforcement of the no-fly zones stepped up. Secretary of state Warren Christopher calls on Russian, French and Turkish leaders to try to influence Saddam.

**Friday, August 30**  
Clinton briefed on phone by national security adviser Tony Lake. A second, private warning is sent to Saddam by fax. Defence secretary William Perry contacts King Hussein of Jordan. Kurdish faction leaders meet in London.

Clinton receives written NSC summary of invasion of Irbil and possible options.

**Saturday, August 31**  
Lake faxes memorandum

recommending military action to Clinton on the bus. Clinton halts motorcade to condemn invasion of Irbil. By Saturday night, Clinton sets attack in motion. General Shalikhavili, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and Pelletreau, sent to Saudi Arabia to build support. London talks end.

**Sunday, September 1**  
Clinton calls world leaders from Little Rock to gauge and build support, getting mixed signals. Perry asks for another day to prepare attack.

**Monday, September 2**  
Clinton in Wisconsin told that Saddam pushing troops further into the north. Talks to Jacques Chirac, who offers no support.

Clinton flies to Washington and orders attack. Goes to bed in White House at 11pm, awakes for 7am briefing. — Boston Globe.

## KDP shows off control of Irbil

### Kurdish capital/Victorious faction says all Iraqis have now left, writes Chris Nuttall

THE IRAQI flag had been pulled down in Irbil and the insignia of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan was being painted over in the yellow of its flag, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, yesterday as the KDP demonstrated to the world it was in complete control of the regional capital of northern Iraq.

"I can assure you that there are no Iraqi forces, no tanks, no armoured personnel carriers inside Irbil," said Fadi Mirani, the new head of security in the city, captured by the KDP with the help of the Baghdad regime on Saturday.

But just over 10 miles south-east of Irbil, an Iraqi mechanised battalion had been spotted, though Western observers said it was not in an offensive posture. KDP forces patrol the streets and mount checkpoints. But residents say some do not speak Kurdish, suggesting they are members of Iraqi intelligence.

Saddam Hussein's secret police were more apparent before the city was opened to journalists yesterday. "They were going through the streets in a convoy," said one Kurd. "They had a list of people they wanted."

Those believed to have been taken away include members of the opposition group the Iraqi National Congress, and of the Turko-

man community, a minority of more than a million discriminated against by Baghdad. There have been rumours of people being executed but no bodies have been found.

There were few casualties and little damage caused in the capture of Irbil. The KDP admits to losing seven fighters. The PUK cadres are reported to have fled, stealing cars when Iraqi tanks appeared. Shelling damaged the PUK headquarters and the parliament, but little else.

"We know the Iraqis were in their positions outside but we never expected them to come in," said Mohsin Habib, on duty at the headquarters of the UN Guard Contingent in Iraq.

The people of Irbil are traditionally neutral in the war between the two Kurdish factions. But the capital has been at the centre of their power struggle, the PUK holding it since December 1994. There is apprehension over what price must be paid to President Saddam for his support for the KDP. The KDP insists the alliance to see off the Iranian-backed PUK is over.

Electricity and water has been cut off by the PUK, which controls a dam to the east. City dwellers could be seen collecting water from pools of sewage yesterday. Food is also scarce.

Two thousand people were arrested initially, and a few hundred remain in detention. Most of the aid organisations have evacuated staff to further north or Turkey, but the United Nations agencies are staying put and there has been no mass exodus of refugees.

## Burden falls on the sick and the hungry

### Aid agencies are dismayed by blockage of the UN aid, writes Maggie O'Kane

THE British Red Cross warned yesterday of continuing "catastrophic conditions" in Iraq as the United Nations wrangled over American efforts to delay the plan to ease the plight of the Iraqi people by limited oil sales.

The plan to let Saddam Hussein sell \$2 million (£1.3 million) worth of oil every six months to pay for essential food and medical supplies was to have come into force at the end of this month.

The deal, bedevilled for months by American and British objections, was delayed by the UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, at the weekend after Iraqi forces moved into Irbil. On Tuesday, the US demanded reconsideration of the plan as it related to relief to Kurdish areas, so holding up the whole package.

John English of the British Red Cross said it was reliably estimated that there were 5,000 new cases of malnutrition each month.

The WHO planned to spend \$210 million from the oil sale on essential medicines and replacing equipment broken down after 5 years without spare parts.

"It was life saving work. We would have been able to help people like kidney patients who are dying now because there are no filters for the dialysis machine — it's as basic as that."

Mr English declined to comment on the decision to suspend the plan. "We are just international civil servants."

"make things much worse," Mr English said. In Geneva the man who was to take charge of providing WHO medical supplies to Iraq, Joseph Hazbun, said: "We had been working for weeks up to four o'clock in the morning to put this together, and all we needed was the green light."

He said the WHO planned to supply 1,500 Iraqi hospital with basic medicines. "They needed it all — everything from an aspirin to very sophisticated cancer drugs. We had 15 staff on line and another 40 back up."

### John English of the British Red Cross said it was reliably estimated that there were already 5,000 new cases of malnutrition each month

The WHO planned to spend \$210 million from the oil sale on essential medicines and replacing equipment broken down after 5 years without spare parts.

"It was life saving work. We would have been able to help people like kidney patients who are dying now because there are no filters for the dialysis machine — it's as basic as that."

Mr English declined to comment on the decision to suspend the plan. "We are just international civil servants."

A spokesman for the New York Centre for Economic and Social Rights, which has carried out two health and nutrition surveys in Iraq, said the delay would be fatal for many Iraqis.

"Iraqi civilians will continue to die in the same numbers," said Abdullah Mutawi, its legal affairs spokesman. Iraqi political exiles in Britain are opposed to the trade sanctions imposed on Iraq, despite their opposition to Saddam Hussein's regime.

Sanctions do not work and inflict terrible suffering on ordinary people, they say. The UN planned to send 200 monitors to ensure that the money from the deal stayed out of President Saddam's pocket.

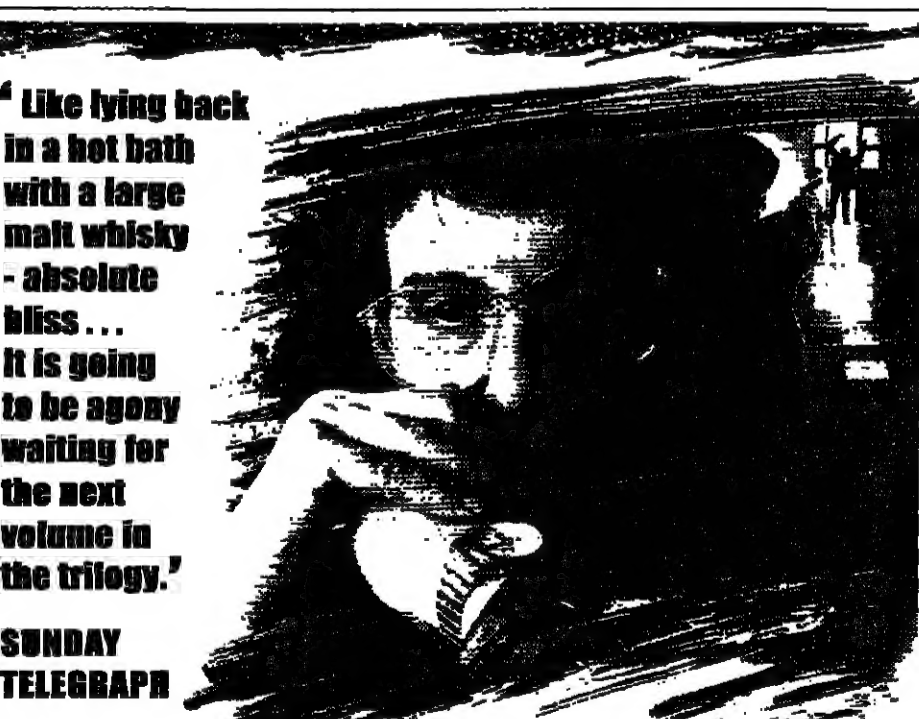
"Everything down to the last water purification tablet had to be accounted for — there was no question of him getting his hands on the money to buy weapons," said Kamil Mehd, of the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies at the University of Exeter.

"The only people who will suffer are the Iraqi people," he said.

Abdul Haq Alani, editor of the Arab Review published quarterly in London, said the delay would have no effect on the Iraqi leadership. The regime had been ousted from hardship by black market oil sales to Turkey, he said, and by taking commission on the millions of pounds Iraqis abroad were forced to send home to their relatives in Iraq.

"It is the ordinary people who are exhausted by the sanctions. There is no spirit to fight or challenge him. The sanctions are helping him keep a grip on power."

"Suspending this deal makes absolutely no sense."



## THE WAITING'S OVER

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# DEIGHTON

Barbara Jones was never optimistic that there would be fast improvements in the jeering, leering world of the male brickie, so 12 years ago she went looking for a way to stay in the trade. Maggie O'Kane

G2 page 5

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## Labour means business

Non-intervention in industry is the new orthodoxy

TONY BLAIR has all but succeeded in defusing business anxieties about the prospects of a Labour victory in the next general election. No previous Labour manifesto has been given such approval — albeit qualified — by the main business organisations as Labour's Business Prospectus was yesterday. The CBI said it would be churlish not to admit that Labour had made major shifts to accommodate the concerns of business people. Even the right-wing Institute of Directors, while having reservations about the minimum wage and the Social Chapter, welcomed Labour's commitment to business and especially to small businesses. The 90,000 strong Federation of Small Businesses said that concern over the minimum wage and the Social Chapter were now outweighed by Labour's help for small employers and that five million small business votes were now "up for grabs". Is there any greater outward sign of the changes imposed on the Labour Party, so used to playing the role of the Devil in its dealings with small businesses, than the sweet nothings now being mouthed between them? It is not (yet) true that Labour has exchanged its cloth cap for a bowler hat, but it is determined, as no other Labour Party before it, to work with the grain of industry.

If Labour wins the election it will result in the most seamless transfer of power in recent memory. Of the six pledges made yesterday by Mr Blair as the basis for a partnership with industry, five (macro-economic stability, adequate infrastructure, reduced red tape, improved skills and completion of the Single Market) would be endorsed by the Tories even if they haven't been very successful at achieving them. The sixth pledge — addressing the economic costs of social divisions — could turn out to be the defining difference but members of the Labour Party as well as

businessmen, may have to wait until Labour achieves power to know what that really means. This is the first prospective Labour administration to be completely shorn of nationalisation proposals, industrial interventionism and excess spending plans. Yesterday's proposals were so geared to the language of businessmen that the Arts were referred to as "cultural industries". Where there are commitments to intervene (for example, the promotion of tourism, optical fibre networks and tax reforms to boost film production) they have arisen from requests from the industries themselves rather than being imposed from above. Even the long-term pledge to lower the starting rate of tax to 10 per cent (see below) seems motivated by a desire to change the tax image of the party rather than to help the poor. The late Lord Joseph argued that Labour was the party of the producer and the Tories of the consumer. That is probably still true. The difference now is that Labour has stopped pretending that it knows better than industry what is good for it.

This is a profound change in the nature of Labour which many traditional supporters have yet to take on board. It is also highly risky because non-interventionism will only succeed if industry has enough faith in Labour to invest for the future. But if it succeeds then Labour will have the means to proceed redistributive again. The potential returns from macroeconomic stability — like higher growth and lower unemployment — are greater than from eclectic intervention. If the Tories hadn't totally mismanaged two recessions they wouldn't be in their present dire fiscal straits. If Labour can achieve sustained non-inflationary growth then it will generate tax revenues enabling the party to have a meaningful debate about redistribution. Without growth, all bets are off.

## How not to help the poor

Tax cuts benefit the higher paid, not the really needy

WHO says Labour does not dare to be fair? Yesterday Gordon Brown insisted a Labour Government would provide more help to the low paid. Penal marginal rates for the low paid — generated by in-work benefits plus tax — would be tackled. In contrast to Conservative plans to abolish capital gains and inheritance tax, Labour has set its eyes on the long-term objective of "a new lower starting rate of tax of 15p, or preferably 10p in the pound". Put that in your cigar and smoke it Ken Clarke. Labour will aim to slash the current starting rate of tax in half. Moreover, the shadow chancellor — and his leader — were ready to say this to a hall of industrialists in London none of whom would have been a lower rate taxpayer. Is this for real?

Hopefully not. This is no way to help the poor — which is perhaps why he chose to deliver such a message to higher paid taxpayers. Remember, the poorest 15 million adults in the country — the unemployed, disabled, and many pensioners — wouldn't receive any benefit from slashing the starting rate to 10p. They do not pay any tax. For the 25 million who do pay tax, there are better ways of helping them than through such a crude mechanism as lowering the starting rate. At its crudest — replacing a 20p with a 10p band — the cost would be £8 billion. Introducing 10p as one of several steps would be much cheaper, but would still lose a Labour government vital resources in a country crying out for better services.

The most direct way of helping the low paid is to lift more of them out of tax altogether by raising tax allowances. Four decades ago a married man with two children did not start paying tax until he was earning average earnings. Now he starts paying tax when he is earning less than 30 per cent of the average. Does Labour really think this is fair? Raising allowances — like lowering the starting rate — would also be corrected by adjusting higher-rate thresholds. Indeed, not only should they be adjusted to ensure the same number are paying higher rates, but there needs to be a top rate higher than 40 per cent too.

Roy Hattersley is right to keep hammering away at the need for Labour to be more redistributive. If only he could persuade the shadow cabinet. No developed state has seen such a brutal widening of incomes between the poor and better off. The gap is now wider than in Victorian times. Margaret Thatcher did not cut taxes but redistributed them between the rich and poor. By 1993, people earning over £50,000 a year had received income tax rebates of £15,000. At the other end, the poor were even poorer — 17 per cent poorer according to the Government's own statistics. It is no use Labour saying it wants to be fair but the voters won't let it because it's untrue. For the last three elections the redistributive parties — Labour plus Liberal Democrats — have outvoted the Tories by 58 to 42 per cent.

## The way to curb Britain's fat cats

Don't talk turkey and stop treating them like human beings

READERS of this newspaper will not be surprised to learn that Britain is the home of the fat cats. Except that the cats in question do not sit in boardrooms enjoying lucrative share options or answer to the name of Cedric.

These cats are the four-legged variety and are fat because of food — so much of it that a new survey for Hill's Pet Nutrition reveals that 47 per cent of British cats are overweight. This infelicitous news for home grown moggies compares unfavourably with results from France, Italy and Belgium, whose humans are well known for their love of food but where obese cats are much less common.

The stout British pussy of today has a long lineage. The survey mentions a cat treated to salmon, trout and prawns every day, inflating it to over the seven or eight pounds average. Such over-indulgence recalls TS Eliot's Bustopher Jones, "this stoutest of cats", who ate at

eight or nine St James's clubs a day and of whom Eliot wrote "He's a twenty-five pounder, or I am a bouncer."

British cats are dwarfed by their gargantuan Australian cousins. An unconfirmed report gives the all-time record to Edward Bear, a 48-pounder from Sydney. And the heaviest domestic cat was Himmy from Queensland, who tipped the scales at a prodigious 47lbs.

Fat cats are apparently created by owners who feed them as though they have human appetites. One way of cutting down on this propensity to kill Tiddles with kindness might be to make cat food much less attractive to the owners who buy it. Cat food is sold in flavours which attract humans rather than cats — like salmon, turkey and rabbit. If cat food came as cats seem to like it — tins of mouse, frog, sparrow or blackbird flavour — then we might feed them less and thus be able to enjoy their company for longer.

## Steve Bell



## Letters to the Editor

### US raids spark explosion

WE are deeply concerned that the UK and US governments are seeking to justify the current armed action against Iraq (Clinton wrecks Gulf alliance, September 4) by reference to UN Security Council Resolution 688 of April 5, 1991. That resolution made no reference either to the imposing of No-fly Zones or to any right to proceed militarily against the Iraqi government.

If the UK and US believe that they cannot win the necessary support of enough Security Council members, then they have no right to take the law into their own hands. Given that, on this occasion, Saddam's armed forces appear to have been genuinely invited into Iraq by one major faction in the tragic Kurdish civil war in Northern Iraq, the British-backed US action is even more dubious.

Malcolm Harper,  
 Director, UN Association of Great Britain and N Ireland,  
 3 Whitehall Court,  
 London SW1A 2EL.

grammes, which take their justness for granted and prefer to discuss military technology rather than the issues of life and death.

It would be harder to smother dissent if the Labour Party had the courage to oppose Major and Clinton. Instead it takes a position to the right of the French government. Let not Tony Blair's electoral chances be impeded by a mere few Arab lives.

Ed Horton,  
 34 Birchfield Close,  
 Blackbird Cloys,  
 Oxford OX4 5DL.

IT IS a characteristic of bullies to surround themselves with self-seeking cronies who find shelter under the shadow of the strongest fist. Unhappily the bully is also self-seeking and it will not always be in his interest to retain the same sycophants. Just as Iraq was once courted by the US and subsequently ditched, so could Britannia find herself jilted by her ally.

M A Stimson,  
 31a Knights Park,  
 Kingston,  
 Surrey KT1 2QH.

MICHAEL Portillo said Britain was supporting the US in its attempts to avoid "a humanitarian disaster".

Since when has sending 34 missiles anywhere in the world been humanitarian?

The latest strikes had nothing to do with the situation in Iraq and everything to do with the situation in America. The cruise missiles were launched as a cynical election stunt, designed to show that Clinton can boss the world.

Western powers do not have the moral authority to dictate to the Third World, whether by high-tech missile or humanitarian campaigns.

Neil Kennedy, Jenny Swift and Simon Alderson,  
 Schools Campaign Against Militarism,  
 c/o Viewforth,  
 Edinburgh EH10 4JF.

THE fear now is that the US may attempt to halt proposed oil for food concessions which would allow Iraq to swap its oil for food and medicine.

Saddam is the problem, but the "civilised" world makes children go hungry and suffer the prospect of death from preventable diseases.

Are the architects of these sanctions any better than Saddam Hussein?  
 Robert O'Sullivan,  
 Gartnaville Road,  
 Ballybrannagh,  
 Co Cork,  
 Ireland.

## Children's hour

WHY pay more licence fees to a BBC which neglects its young listeners? Neither the BBC Charter nor the Broadcasting Act (now with some 300 amendments) protects children's listening rights and they are left hostage to whichever executives happen into power.

These executives claim: "Kids don't want radio... they only like TV and pop!" Do we also remove fresh fruit and vegetables because kids like fries and pop?

The axing of children's radio is the most alarmingly false economy in public-service broadcasting. Listening is crucial to the development of imagination, concentration



and communication and, with primary schools in crisis and an acute shortage of nursery places, this most accessible and cost-effective medium has a key role to play in learning support.

License fees would be better invested in a Children's Broadcasting Corporation, to

entertain, educate and inform young citizens and secure their rightful place in all broadcast media.

Susan Stranks,  
 Director,  
 Children 2000: The Children's Radio Campaign,  
 Chancellor Street,  
 London W6.

## Labour cares

CATHERINE Bennett is entirely wrong to suggest (Policy that's neither fish nor fowl, September 4) that Labour's commitment to animal welfare is hardly different to other parties. Labour is the only party committed to a free vote on the abolition of hunting with hounds. Labour is the only major party that has spoken out against live animal transport, and made it clear that if it was legally possible to do so we would ban the export of calves to veal crates systems.

In close co-operation with our European Parliamentary Labour Party we are also committed to the development of less intensive livestock systems. Labour is the only party that has called for reforms of the CAP to give capital grants to producers investing in welfare-friendly systems. We are committed to a wide range of radical reforms for captive, companion, wild, domestic and laboratory animals. We have already had success in advocating the voluntary introduction of ethics committees in research establishments and encouraged welfare labelling.

The IFAW made a welcome donation to Labour because it wants to see all parties give the priority most people in this country think animal welfare should have.

Elliott Morley MP,  
 Labour Spokesperson for Animal Welfare,  
 House of Commons,  
 London SW1A 0AA.

## Taking account of the pink pound

WHILE Peter Tatchell's criticism about the parlous state of gay activism (Cashing in, coming out, August 28), and the letters in response (August 31), made interesting reading, the authors chose their target wrongly.

The Pink Paper is not taken up solely with "entertainment and business news" though we do have both. We recently launched a hotline with the TUC to combat harassment and victimisation in employment — hardly the work of an apathetic newspaper. We have tackled gay taboos like misogyny, racism, gay-on-gay sexual harassment and, yes, political apathy, with similar vigour.

Though we are a free weekly newspaper, we are not beholden to our advertisers. Where advertising has been threatened with withdrawal by an organisation should a story go ahead, we have run the story.

But we are a business. How does Tatchell think we can make a living — certainly not by ignoring our readers' interests or by providing him with a free vanity publisher. Tatchell and the other whingers are really just nursing rather bruised egos.

The Pink Paper no longer deems Outrage, or other special interest groups, as automatically deserving of attention.

from the them-and-us glory days of the past.  
 Roger Goodie,  
 Managing Editor,  
 The Pink Paper,  
 72 Holloway Road,  
 London N7 8NZ.

PETER Tatchell is quite right to say that homosexuals are badly served by the free weekly newspapers. All they are concerned about is the young reader with a lifestyle to attract advertisers.

As media officer for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE), I find it extremely rare these days to obtain publicity for CHE's campaigning activities in such publications. Instead it is deemed that readers of The Pink Paper want to know at great length about developments in Harvey Nichols.

There may be a lesson from Scotland. We've been running gay and lesbian centres for 20 years. In the 1970s they were staffed by volunteers, the cafes run by committees. In the 1990s, we have set up charitable management companies which have leased spaces in our centres to shops and offices.

The political work continues, subsidised by the rents. Ian Dunn,  
 Convenor,  
 Outright Scotland,  
 58a Broughton Street,  
 Edinburgh EH1 5SA.

### Why our childcare policies are still in their infancy

ELIZABETH Williams' account of her child's experience with a childminder (Tales of the least expected, August 27) made alarming reading for any parent. But it should be noted that registration requirements for childminders and their families are now far stricter as a result of the Children Act of 1989.

The local authority reaction to Ms Williams' allegation is, alas, still very common. The National Childminding Association has recently implemented new procedures to deal with complaints and a conference is planned in November to attempt to bring together a good practice model for local authorities so that parents and childminders know what to expect when an allegation is made.

Carolyn Thompson,  
 Director, Communications and Marketing,  
 National Child Minding Association,  
 8 Masons Hill,  
 Bromley,  
 Kent BR2 9EY.

FOUR-and-a-half years ago the UK signed up to the EC Recommendation on Childcare. That recommendation encouraged the development of initiatives which enable women and men to reconcile their occupational, family and child-caring responsibilities.

Now we will be contributing to the new consultation process "on what a national childcare framework might look like". I anticipate that the main recommendations will not differ from those made previously. Three things that would make a difference, however, are: co-operation and co-ordination between the five governmental departments with an interest in childcare; pump-priming money made available to each local authority which wanted to develop childcare services for those not classed as at serious risk; and the recognition that what the majority of parents want is the real ability to choose how best to provide care for their children.

Vanessa Schepers,  
 Director,  
 Working for Childcare,  
 77 Holloway Road,  
 London N7 6JZ.

WHAT Louisa Young (Work, economy, work, September 2) fails to point out is that working full time and being a mother has to be a compromise. All too often, newspapers portray working mothers in a negative way, probably because the exam-

ples they use are career women who have found the change difficult. The concept of compromise is alien to them.

Not all working mothers live such high-flying lives, but still need to work to pay the mortgage, have to leave their children with childminders because they have no-one else, yet still find time actually to enjoy their children because, after financial considerations, they try to put their children first.

Lucia Chaplin,  
 7 Kegworth Avenue,  
 Leicester LE5 4PG.

IT IS no coincidence that the only feminist demands which have been embraced by this government are the ones which benefit employers (Ministers rue gaps in childcare, August 23). The more women in the workforce, the bigger the supply of workers; the bigger the supply of workers, the cheaper their price.

Anne O'Connor,  
 8 Kitto Road,  
 London SE14 5TW.

YOU claim (Leader, September 1) that many more women would work full time if there were more childcare places. Well maybe, but it is also true that many women who work part-time do so by choice. Furthermore, many who work full-time do so because they have no other option available to them in their chosen profession.

Where opportunities exist many women (and men) consider their children's needs first and fit their working lives around them. Unfortunately most people are denied this opportunity.

Many experienced professionals do not retrain as teachers do so not because of inadequate childcare, but because they enjoy spending time with their own children. Teaching is one of the few professions which can accommodate this to any degree.

If we truly value families, then our first priority must be to enable parents of both sexes properly to care for their own children. The world of work can and must accommodate the needs of children, not vice versa.

Nicky Conlan,  
 101 Chester Terrace,  
 Brighton,  
 East Sussex BN1 6GD.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed address, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

## A Country Diary

INVERNESS-SHIRE: The two cock red grouse walked through the heather until they reached a slight mound and then they were away with arched wings over the moorland. Below the rough track the ground sloped steeply away to a scattering of old Scots pine on the bank on a wide burn whose waters tumbled merrily over rounded boulders where the dipper sang. Heather, cross leaved heath and bell heather made a fine show of colour mixed with the leaves of hillyberry and crowberry. This was mountain hare country and there were droppings everywhere, including those of roe deer, red deer and pine marten. Beyond the burn the moorland stretched away into the distance. The moor-burn left a patchy scene but the strips were small and narrow, giving young shoots for the grouse and longer heather nearby to hide in when golden eagle or peregrine showed. An ideal scene but there was an eeriness about it and a silence that

was not magical as it is elsewhere in the Highlands. The feeling was in my mind rather than a reality but what was missing were the birds of prey. There should have been breeding hen harriers in the longer heather, peregrines on the lower cliff and golden eagles on taller cliffs but there were none. This is a notorious black spot in the Highlands where, over tens of thousands of acres, birds of prey have systematically been persecuted — a persecution that persists even in this so-called enlightened age. Golden eagles and peregrines are shot and sometimes their nests burnt out while, with hen harriers, the adults are shot and their chicks crushed under foot in the nest. Admittedly this is not characteristic of the Highlands as most people uphold the law but there are still many who think they are above such laws and it is a sad reflection that recorded incidents are only the tip of the iceberg.

RAY COLLIER

مكتبة النور







Vagn Holmboe

# A forest of music

**V**AGN Holmboe, who has died aged 86, was the most distinguished Danish composer of his generation and one of the most prolific from any country this century.

He wrote more than 350 compositions — opera and ballet scores, songs for voice, piano and chorus, chamber music and concertos for most members of the standard orchestra. The core of his mature work — he suppressed a significant proportion of his output from the 1920s and 1930s — and that on which his reputation principally rests, lies in his magisterial series of symphonies and string quartets, the two forms he first essayed at the precocious age of 16 and to which he returned over and over again throughout his career.



Holmboe... distinguished and prolific composer

Holmboe was the fourth of six children. His eldest brother, Knud was a writer and traveller, with whom Vagn shared a questing spirit though not political motivation or tragic fate. Knud was murdered in Arabia. After studies with Finn Hoffding and Knud Jeppesen at Copenhagen's Royal Music Conservatory from 1926-29, Holmboe made several trips to Berlin receiving tuition from Ernst Toch — although never as a formal student of the German composer. There Holmboe met his future wife, the Romanian pianist Meta Graf, then a pupil of Hindemith. In November 1933, while on a field trip to Transylvania to study folk music, the couple were married. They set up house in Copenhagen in 1934. Holmboe working as a teacher, music critic and part-time composer, Meta pursuing a career as concert pianist. In 1939, Holmboe achieved his public breakthrough in Denmark when his second symphony won the Royal Danish Orchestra's composition competition, largely thanks to the conductor Egipto Tange, who overruled the selection panel's elimination of Holmboe's score in the preliminary round. The Holmboes built a cottage with

the prize money — now dwarfed by the later, larger domicile, near Ramlose by the shores of Lake Arre. During the next four decades, they planted more than 7,000 trees — cycling there every weekend with saplings balanced across their handlebars in the early 1940s and early 1950s — creating a small, private forest around the house. When storms uprooted hundreds of the oldest trees in the 1960s, Holmboe remarked that it felt almost as if they had lost their children.

After 10 years teaching music at the Copenhagen Institute for the Blind, Holmboe moved in 1950 to the Conservatory. While there — he resigned in 1955 to devote himself to composition — he taught some of the most eminent Nordic composers of succeeding generations, most notably the Danes Per Norgard and Ib Nornholm and the Norwegian Arne Nordheim. Norgard, recalling Holmboe's appearance of him as a pupil, wrote: "I floated home (and in a way am still floating)."

In 1963 the Holmboes made their home at Ramlose. Two years later, Holmboe became a professor at the conservatory and resigned as music critic for the daily newspaper, Politiken. He published a number of

books: a 1961 collection of writings on music, *Mellemspil* (Interlude, expanded and translated as *Experiencing Music*, 1991); *Danish Street Cries*, a scholarly study — in English — and collection of the vernacular tradition up to 1950 (1988); and, jointly with his wife, *Sanklang*, a collection of Meta's photographs — ill-health forced her to give up public piano performances — accompanied only by musical examples selected by the composer from his own works.

Holmboe wrote 13 numbered symphonies, and a *Sinfonia in Memoriam* (1955), which have all now been recorded, plus three very fine chamber symphonies (1933-70), and the remarkable set of intertwined *Sinfoniae* for strings, *Akros* (Time, 1957-62). Stylistically, his first symphony, in 1935 reflected his studies of eastern European folk music that had immediately preceded its composition, but from the second (1938-39) onwards, Holmboe developed a powerfully atmospheric orchestral style combining the structural cohesion of Sibelius's later symphonies with a dynamic use of tonality deriving from the music of his great countryman Carl Nielsen and from Bartok.

Always an intuitive composer, Holmboe eschewed formal systematisations such as dodecaphony. In the late 1940s, in the sixth and seventh symphonies, Holmboe evolved his visually open-ended metamorphosis technique, whereby the musical material of a piece of music — whether tiny groups of notes ("cells") or larger themes and their logical, organic transformations — rather than a traditional format handed down from the classical era, determined the internal structure of the work. This "running process", as he once described it, is most in perfectly described by lines from Walt Whitman's poem *Et-dolens*, which inspired the turbulent, magisterial tenth symphony (1970-1):

*Ever the mutable,  
Ever materials, changing,  
Crumbling, re-cohering.*



Pipe dreams... a sculpture of Holmboe in Denmark's National Historical Museum

Just as Holmboe was working out the symphonic implications of the metamorphosis technique, he embarked — with not one but three works — on the series of 21 string quartets that rank with the symphonies as his most significant musical contributions. He was no stranger to the string quartet as a medium, having preceded numbers one to three with 10 apprentice efforts of which only the eighth (designated "h" in Paul Rapoport's exhaustive "This running process", as he once described it, is most in perfectly described by lines from Walt Whitman's poem *Et-dolens*, which inspired the turbulent, magisterial tenth symphony (1970-1):

*Ever the mutable,  
Ever materials, changing,  
Crumbling, re-cohering.*

Holmboe was also a prolific chamber music composer, and some of his most shepherly beautiful music was reserved for the five volumes of Latin motets comprising the *Liber Cantorum* (Book of Songs, 1951-94).

Many of his smaller choral pieces betray a buoyant sense of fun, as in his settings of the Scots border ballad *The Wee Wee Man* (1971-3). However, some of the larger choral-and-orchestral works, such as the visionary *Requiem for Nietzsche* (1963-4), or extroverted fourth symphony, *Sinfonia Sacra* (1941-5, dedicated to his younger brother Ebbe, who died in a Nazi concentration camp), explore darker vistas. If the playfulness that was part-and-parcel of his creative make-up rarely showed itself in such major utterances, his

other chamber and instrumental items were not infrequently more unbuttoned, as in the early, neo-classical concertos (modelled in part on the *Kammermusik* of Hindemith, with whom Holmboe had tried unsuccessfully to study in 1930), the delightful *Notturno* for wind quintet (1940) or rollicking *Concerto for Brass* (1983).

But, synthesis above all else was his guiding principle, as can be heard clearly in the eleventh and twelfth symphonies (1960; 1968), with their magical combination of vigour and serenity so typical of the man.

Guy Rickards

Vagn Holmboe, composer, born December 10, 1909; died September 1, 1996.

Bob Brown

# Our friend in the North

**B**OB BROWN, who has died aged 75, was a life-long servant of the Labour Party. During his lengthy career he was involved at every level of the party, from election agent and borough councillor, to government minister.

Born and bred in the Scotswood area of Newcastle, Bob Brown was a man who stayed close to his roots, always promoting the interests of the city, region and people he loved.

He was also a man who showed considerable foresight. In his maiden speech in 1966 after winning Newcastle West, the seat he held for 20 years as both Newcastle West and after 1983 Newcastle North, Bob explained that the curse of the North had been "its complete dependence on heavy industry, much of it well-nigh obsolete". He was an early proponent of the need for the industrial North to diversify to survive, to forge itself anew in the white heat of the technological revolution that the Wilson government was seeking to fire.

To Bob this was what politics was all about — the priorities for his community, his region and his nation, not internal ideological arguments.

After elementary and technical school, Bob was apprenticed at 16 to the Newcastle and Gateshead Gas Company as a fitter and plumber. Following war service in the Royal Signals he returned to work for the company, becoming an inspector in 1948, a post he held until he entered parliament.

stipitans advice on how to repair their burst pipes. Nationally, he was a passionate advocate of regional government, a defender of the rights of working people, including those serving in the armed forces, and a supporter of a strong defence for the nation.

For his first two years in parliament, Bob continued to act as chief whip for the Labour Party on Newcastle City Council. But his shrewd political skills were recognised with his appointment in 1968 as a parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Transport under Barbara Castle. In opposition, after the 1970 election, Bob Brown served as spokesman on the environment, and vice-chair of the trade union group of MPs and of the parliamentary Labour party transport group.

On Labour's return to power in 1974, after a brief spell as an under-secretary of state at the DHSS, again under Castle, Bob began a long and solid performance as the under-secretary of state for the Army. Following Callaghan's election defeat, Brown became vice-chair of the defence group between 1981 and 1983. He then concentrated on constituency work until retiring from parliamentary politics in 1987.

In 1988 Bob Brown was elected to Newcastle City Council. He became lord mayor for a year in 1984 and remained a council member until his death. Friends and colleagues will remember him as a determined yet friendly man, always sympathetic to those he wrily referred to as the "under-privileged" of the South-east, who did not have the advantages of his Geordie background.

He was a proud president of the Lemington man's sports club, an inveterate Newcastle United supporter and a man who most of all loved his family. He is survived by his wife Marjorie, son Roger, daughter Janet and his grandchildren.

Doug Henderson

Robert Crofton Brown, politician, born May 16, 1921; died September 3, 1996.

Admiral José Merino Castro

# Chile's bloody sticking point

**A**DAMIRAL José Toribio Merino Castro, who has died aged 80, was the former commander-in-chief of the Chilean Navy and one of the key figures in the overthrow of the constitutional regime of Salvador Allende, which lasted from 1970 to 1973. Under General Augusto Pinochet, "Pepe" Merino was a member of the four-man military junta that ruled Chile with supreme powers during the first year after the anti-Allende coup d'état in September 1973. After Pinochet became president, Merino remained the most influential member of the junta.

Like most officers in the Chilean navy, Admiral Merino came from an ultra-conservative family and held pronounced anti-communist views. Of all the coup leaders, he held the most extreme views, and prisoners of the Popular Unity regime held in naval camps and ships suffered accordingly.

During the period of the Popular Unity government, President Allende had sought to neutralise the conservative officers hostile to his regime by giving them governmental responsibilities and by generally trying to make them feel useful. Admiral Merino had been appointed minister of governor of Valparaíso, Chile's chief Pacific port and an important naval headquarters. But under his aegis, the



Chile's junta... Fernando Mattel, Merino, President Augusto Pinochet and Cesar Mendoza

navy waged a war against Allende's education reforms and against the extreme left — the MIR — which was particularly strong in the University of Valparaíso.

The final straw for the navy and for Admiral Merino was the discovery that the MIR and sections of the Chilean Socialist Party were seeking recruits within the ranks of the sailors to outflank the coup plotters. Merino, who had ascended to second-in-command of the navy in August 1973, then organised a coup within the navy in early September against the incumbent commander, Admiral Raul Montero, and himself took over as commander.

Paralleling the simultaneous emergence of General Pinochet as army head, these career moves gave the plotters their opportunity. Admiral Merino, acting the part of Lady Macbeth, forced the other conspirators to screw their courage to the sticking point. On Saturday September 11 1973, he sent notes from Valparaíso to the army and the air force commanders, as they attended birthday celebrations in Santiago for Pinochet's daughter.

One read: "This is the last opportunity. The other, to Pinochet, read: 'Augusto, do not fail to act with all the force of Santiago from the first moment... Pepe.' In later years, lest anyone should forget his

the coup. "We will be accused of killing the people with hunger," he observed. But his reservations were swept aside. His finance minister, Admiral Lorenzo Gossens, told him that "the dog's tail must be cut off at one chop." Later, when the policies began to show results, Admiral Merino became an enthusiastic convert to the policy of economic ruthlessness. When the junta's own supporters began to be affected, and people complained about bankruptcies, Admiral Merino talked of the inescapable law of the economic jungle, "a jungle of savage beasts, where he who can kill the one next to him, kills him. That is reality."

As a naval man, Merino could never have been the junta's leader, but as the intellectual author of the coup, he was Pinochet's staunchest supporter. He demurred somewhat when Pinochet made himself president of the country in 1974, and when the final denouement came in the 1980s, Merino would have preferred Pinochet to step down and to have allowed a civilian president to oversee the moves towards civilian rule. But within the junta, Merino was always solid with Pinochet, joining him in plotting the overthrow of a dissident member, the air force general Gustavo Leigh, in 1978. He was the only member of the junta who dared to call the President "Augusto," and he usually treated Pinochet with familiarity if not contempt.

Richard Gott

José Toribio Merino Castro, admiral, born December 15, 1916; died August 30, 1996.

Jackdaw



Beaver boost

**OXBOW, NY** — The residents of Sylvia Lake blew up a beaver dam this summer, but dynamite proved no match for America's most industrious rodent. Within four days the beavers had rebuilt their dam, stopping up a crucial outlet and raising Sylvia Lake to problem levels once again. On the Fourth of July, people barbed on docks under six inches of water. "You come out here, you want to cook your dinner, and you take your shoes off," said Gele Ferguson, a commercial printer who in nearly five decades on Sylvia Lake had never seen the water so

high. Branding beavers as "the enemy," Mr Ferguson sounded an ominous call. "We've played their game for five years," he said, "now that they're winning we have to get serious."

Earlier wiped out by trapping and farming in the 19th century, beavers have come back!

"Beavers have no social life," Mr Ferguson sighed. "They had 24 hours a day to do this. They're near impossible to keep up with."

*New Yorkers preparing for war with the annoying over-catchers.* New York Times.

Wormed out

**TAPEWORM-TRAP** Alpheus Myers Patented November 14, 1864. To all whom it may concern: Be it known that I, Alpheus Myers, MD of Logansport, in the county of Cass and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Trap for Removing Tapeworms from the Stomach and Intestines. The object of my invention is to effect the removal of worms from the system, without employing

medicines, and thereby causing much injury.

My invention consists in a trap which is baited, attached to a string, and swallowed by the patient after a fast of suitable duration to make the worm hungry. The worm seizes the bait, and its head is caught in the trap, which is then withdrawn from the patient's stomach by the string which has been left hanging from the mouth, dragging after it the whole length of tape worm.

**Apparatus for recording poultry egg production.** Hans Egen Birch-Iensen, patented March 3, 1964. The prior-art fastening devices are unsatisfactory because they do not locate and orient the counter, and particularly its movable input element in a sufficiently steady and exact manner relative to the evacuation opening of the hen, through which the eggs emerge.

The invention overcomes these drawbacks and relates to a holder to be fastened to a hen by means of a harness and adapted to carry a counter having a movable input

element therefore located beneath the hen's tail, including a back portion to be fastened along the hen's spine, and a pair of limbs extending from the rear end of the back portion and conformed to embrace the hen's tail root. Characteristic for the new holder is that the outer or rear ends of the limbs are fixedly interconnected and prolonged by a pair of arms which are conformed in such a way as to be directed, on application of the holder, downwardly behind the hen's rump and to bear against the hen's body only with their lower parts. Combined grocer's package, grater, slicer, and mouse and fly trap. Robert Martin Gardner, patented July 6, 1997. Be it known, that, Robert Martin Gardner, electrician, residing at the city of Hamilton, in the country of Wentworth, have invented a new grocer's package. My invention relates to the construction of a grocer's sheet metal box in such a manner as to be useful for other purposes, (after the first contents are removed.) such as a grater, shredder, slicer,

and mouse and fly trap. *The last of the patented weird to be printed in Jackdaw but the diagrams are most definitely worth discovering at http://colitz.com/site/wacky.htm*

Versed lines

"I LIKE to create each production as a piece of theatre in a way that has never been conceived or imagined before, as if there had never been theatre. Then I will attempt to approach each piece with the avowed intention of making this my goal and salvation of my life, almost if my very sanity lies in solving the puzzle. This can make for a certain amount of strain because of mind, but if I persevere I may enter another area of my imagination which is not programmed by what has gone before, and that can be quite exciting. I bring areas of my unconscious into play, rather than letting them lie dormant like some fabled lake in the base of my skull."

*Steven Berkoff persuading us that there is method in his madness. Q magazine.*

Dirty Harry

Tennis — wear really bright clothing, especially yellows and oranges. "Your opponent can't see the ball because it blends with your shirt," says US tennis star, Luke Jensen. "It's absolutely maddening." Cycling — next time you're in a close race, put your head down and softly hiss as you approach the finishing line. "It causes whoever you're riding with to look down and



Men's Health... dirty tricks

check if his tyre's going flat," says world-class Irish cyclist, Sean Kelly. "By the time he realises it's not, you'll have a big jump on him."

Golf — before you head off to the links with your mates, heat your golf balls — say, by wrapping them in a hand warmer. According to Thomas, the hotter the ball is, the farther it will travel. On a 16C day, for example, if you were to heat your ball to 82C, you could give yourself about an extra 15 feet a shot.

Fishing — rub a little petrol on your hands and, then ask your fishing partner if you can check out his bait and rub the petrol on it. "Most fish are smart when it comes to aromas," says Homer Circle, the 82-year-old fishing columnist for American magazine Sports Afield. "Fish hate the smell of petrol. It's repulsive to them. Then wash your hands and rub them with a little peppermint oil to make your own lures more attractive to your quarry."

How to get ahead in sport for those consumed with the desire to win at all costs, in the new edition of Men's Health.

*Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 118 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.*

Emily Sheffield

مكاتب التحرير



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# Finance Guardian

## Lloyd's chief rings in new era after brush with disaster

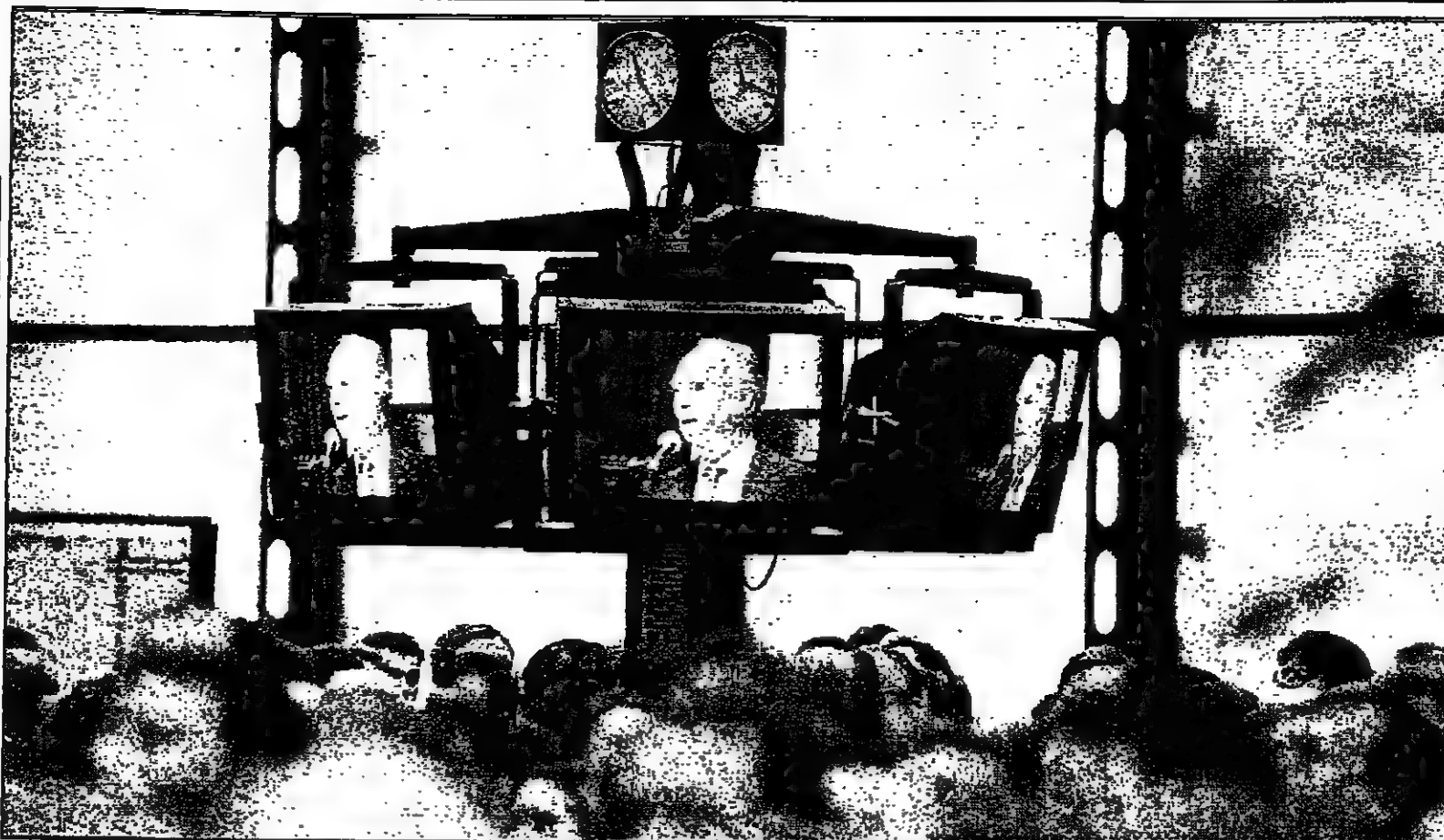
**DAVID Rowland**, chairman of Lloyd's of London, yesterday rang the famous Lutine bell three times to herald the official end to the market's troubles, *writes Pauline Springett*.

Traditionally it has been sounded once to signal bad news, and twice for good news, although it is now only used on ceremonial occasions.

Mr Rowland — seen here on television monitors in the underwriting room at Lloyd's — was also celebrating the Department of Trade and Industry's decision to give the green light to Equitas, the reinsurer company which has taken over Lloyd's old loss making liabilities.

Lloyd's almost collapsed after losing nearly £8 billion in 1988-1992. Thousands of its Names suffered enormous financial losses as a result. Last week the 34,000 Names overwhelmingly accepted a \$2.3 billion settlement offer.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN LAMARQUE



## Notebook Muddy thinking ruins courtship



Edited by Alex Brummer

ONE supposes it is better for New Labour to have the business community on its side, rather than actively challenging its ideas in the run-up to the election, but this is no reason for the lack of intellectual clarity in "New opportunities for business." A bit of trimming on the minimum wage and the social chapter, two of the bugbears of the business community, will no doubt calm the nerves of some people in the boardrooms, although carrying from Sir Stanley Kalms, Lord Sheppard and Lord Hanson et al would continue even if Labour were to swap their manifesto with the Tories.

For a party which appears bold in its approach to constitutional reforms, it is extraordinarily cautious on institutional reforms affecting business. Its position on European Monetary Union, the most important decision it will face within months of coming into office, is preposterously vague.

While France and Germany are busy organising for the euro, in the process disavowing the UK financial community, Labour is promising a "hard-headed look at the economic practicalities." This is like John Major at his most prevaricating best. If Labour's TUC supporters and much of the CBI and City can see the virtues, why not Robin Cook?

Then there is competition policy. Margaret Beckett is entirely right to shift the burden of proof to public interest in hostile takeover. But the idea of merging the OFT and Monopolies & Mergers Commission and then having a separate appeals body looks like muddy thinking. The MMC already, in respect for instance of the utilities, is already an appeals body. So why destroy it to remake it?

Moreover, the institutional framework of competition oversight is less important than the role of Ministers. At present, it is the inconsistent and rampant political abuse of the process which has discredited it. But New Labour is plainly not confident enough of itself to remove competition policy from Ministerial intervention.

In the area of company law there are hints at giving the best aspects of corporate governance statutory backing in a new Companies Act which hopefully would ensure that the rules are adhered to. However, there is something deeply mystical about how "voluntary codes" can be given statutory backing. In the City, Labour is plainly backing a strengthened Securities & Investment Board directly responsible for the Financial Services Act, rather than through the Treasury.

This is a sensible idea. But there is no clarity on what

will happen to all the mini-regulators — from Inuro to Personal Investment Authority — nor any hint as to whether it favours moving banking regulation into a separate authority. This is hardly the spirit FDR invoked when framing the Securities & Exchange Commission, which has endured as a much admired financial regulator for six decades.

On the tax front, about which Labour has sensibly maintained its silence, the new business manifesto returns to the theme of giving tax breaks to those just inside the tax net, a repeat of an idea first floated a year ago. As fascinating is the idea of two-tier capital gains tax, an idea first implemented by Republicans in the US, which gives improved tax breaks to those savers in for the long-term. This triangulation, on the Dick Morris/Clinton model, at its best.

### Twin peaks

AT FIRST glance, the latest economic reports from Germany and France would appear to show the two economies diverging, rather than coming together. The German economy appears to be on the verge of a mini boom with factory orders higher at 0.6 per cent on the back of some of the large export orders which have been missing.

With order books starting to bulge, the expectation is that the second-quarter German growth data issued today will show that Chancellor Kohl's government is through the worst.

Contrast this with France, which reported a 0.4 per cent drop in GDP in the second quarter. It, too, may be through the worst: unemployment is just coming off its high, consumer confidence is rising and the effect of interest rate cuts in Germany are starting to come through.

Most importantly of all, the Chirac administration plans to counter Maastricht public spending cuts with some tax breaks. These could help put the struggling Franco-German alliance back on the upswing of the cycle: essential if the growth required to make the Maastricht deficit criteria possible, is to be achieved.

# High Court freezes assets of suspended fund manager

Paul Murphy, Richard Miles and Jan Henley in Helsinki

**MORGAN Grenfell**, the investment bank which suspended dealings in three of its leading investment funds this week, was granted a High Court injunction yesterday freezing the personal assets of Peter Young, the fund manager at the centre of an investigation into "possible irregularities".

The action was taken with the Royal Bank of Scotland, which has acted as trustee to two of the three funds, the European Growth Unit Trust, the Europa Fund and the Dublin-listed European Capital Growth Fund.

The suspended Mr Young, who ran the two biggest funds, was believed to be at his Buckinghamshire home last night but was not answer-

ing calls. A spokesman for Morgan Grenfell confirmed the court action, but refused to comment further.

As Morgan prepared to re-start dealing in the funds this morning, speculation over the extent of Mr Young's investments in unquoted companies — particularly in Scandinavia — and an apparent delay in alarm bells going off at Morgan, continued apace.

It became clear yesterday that, in many cases, Morgan's funds exerted near-majority control over numerous unlisted companies, whose stocks made up almost a third of the funds' holdings at the end of May. The Securities and Investments Board limits a unit trust's holdings in a single company to 10 per cent — partly to prevent a fund manager from having an

undue influence on the share price.

Two Swedish unquoted companies whose stock is held by the biggest MG fund, the 5778 million European Growth Trust, confirmed yesterday that Morgan Grenfell funds controlled substantial blocks of their stock.

Morgan owns around 35 per cent of the four million shares issued by Gradic Wire, a

fledgling engineering company, whose managing director Sven Ekerot said Mr Young acquired the stake in August 1985. He said: "I have been telling everyone what a smart guy he is. If this had not happened, we would have been aiming for a listing within six months."

Morgan also owns between 30 and 40 per cent of Sintercast, a small high-technology

company with a listing on the Stockholm bourse's junior market, the "O" register. Its finance director Paul Asserson said: "Shares owned by foreign owners are not normally registered, but in our opinion, Morgan Grenfell was a major shareholder out of our 10 main owners."

Industry experts were astonished that a public warning that something was amiss by General Accident, the insurer which acted as trustee to the European Growth Fund before retiring in June, was not heeded.

The trustees' "report to shareholders," issued with the trust's final report in July, clearly states that the fund was breaching the rules through its holdings in three companies — a Finnish electronics firm called Efore, a US biotechnology group Microbiotics, and Princess Resources, a Canadian mining concern.

## Investors prepare to pull out of funds despite £150m cash injection

**MORGAN Grenfell Asset Management** is bracing itself for a wave of selling when the market opens today, despite its assurances that dealing in the three suspended funds will resume at normal prices, *writes Richard Miles*.

Even after a £150 million cash injection into the

funds by Deutsche Bank, its German parent, on Tuesday, the investment manager still anticipates that up to 10 per cent of the £1.4 billion assets will be withdrawn by nervous investors during the first day's trading.

Pension funds and other institutional investors will

be first in the queue, but private investors will not be far behind, according to financial advisers.

But the pace of redemption will be slowed by the vast number of investments held through Personal Equity Plans. It is understood that as much as half

of the biggest fund, the £778 million European Growth Trust, is held through Peps.

Peps cannot be redeemed in the same way as normal units in the funds if investors want to retain the tax privileges, but have to be transferred to another fund, considerably slowing the process.

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## Nurdin puts eggs in Booker basket

Ian King

**AROUND 2,000 jobs** could be in jeopardy after Nurdin & Peacock, Britain's second-biggest cash-and-carry group, yesterday agreed to a £264 million takeover bid from its larger rival Booker.

Booker, which will enjoy a 38 per cent share of the cash-and-carry market once the deal is completed, said it would close 40 of the enlarged group's 213 outlets along with various duplicate head office functions.

However, most of the closures are likely to be at existing Booker outlets, since Nurdin's larger sites are expected to cope more easily with the anticipated increase in business following the takeover.

Announcing the deal, Booker's chief executive, Charles Bowen, refused to say how many of the combined group's 14,000 staff would find their jobs at risk, insisting that a thorough review of businesses would have to take place first. But he said that it would be "extremely pessimistic" to speculate that the number of redundancies could be in the 3,000 range.

"There will certainly be redundancies, as these two businesses are very similar," he said.

Mr Bowen also played down rumours that SHV Makro, the privately-owned Dutch retailing group which owns a 14

per cent stake in Nurdin, could launch a counter bid.

The deal represents a substantial windfall for the Peacock family, which holds a 28 per cent stake in the company.

Nurdin & Peacock began trading in 1910 selling imported French eggs, and built its reputation during the second world war, when it developed the powdered egg.

However, the company has been hit heavily by increasing competition in recent years, and its reputation was badly damaged by a failed attempt to start running US-style warehouse retail "clubs".

N & P shares jumped 7 1/2 to 201 1/2 p on news of the deal, the same level as the cash alternative, while Booker shares gained 23p to 383p.

## Resignation of Olivetti's chairman lifts shares

John Glover in Milan

**OLIVETTI** shares soared yesterday as investors seized on the sudden resignation of its chairman, Carlo De Benedetti, as a sign that the company would revive after five years of losses.

But the mood was entirely different at the company's personal computer plant in Scarmagno, near Ivrea, where 1,500 employees downed tools as fears of imminent heavy job-losses deepened. Around 6,000 jobs in the area north of Turin depend on the Olivetti plant. Union leaders announced they would call a group-wide one-day strike on Monday.

Milan bourse authorities suspended trading in Olivetti shares for 45 minutes yesterday morning after they jumped almost 13 per cent to 739 lire, exceeding trading limits. They later fell back, closing just over 3 per cent up at 749.

The creation of a fund of 200 billion lire (286 million) to "accelerate the reduction of its presence in the hardware sector" has been taken to mean Olivetti plans to sell or close its PC manufacturing business — largely responsible for the losses.

However, some observers warned yesterday that problems at the group run much deeper than just the PC operation.

## Strike threat at NatWest

Ian King

**MORE** than 1,000 staff at NatWest Life, the life assurance arm of the high street bank, are to be balloted for industrial action tomorrow following a breakdown in pay talks between the bank and the NatWest Staff Association.

The dispute centres on proposed changes to the way in which the staff, all members of NatWest's regulated sales force, would be paid.

NatWest wants to introduce a system in which salaries are linked to sales targets. According to the union, the system means that if staff fail to

hit their targets, their salaries would progressively fall in stages of £2,000. A preliminary consultative ballot of members found 90 per cent in favour of a ballot for industrial action over the issue.

Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NWSA, said that over 70 per cent of staff would not be able to achieve targets imposed for 1997, which could result in salary cuts of up to 24,000 a year. "Our members find the proposals totally unacceptable, and we would encourage NatWest to think again. We've had streams of people leaving over this; lots of them poached by the competition."

Mr Murphy said negotia-

tions on the matter with Bristol-based NatWest Life started in February, but broke down in July. NatWest had refused to re-open negotiations, despite confusion among the workforce on what targets they were supposed to be achieving, the union said.

However, a NatWest spokeswoman said the bank had agreed to re-open talks with the union, and that the rival BIFU union had already agreed to the changes. She added:

"Despite a genuine desire on the part of the bank to reach a positive agreement, the NWSA does not currently feel able to give the changes its support."

# New wave of sminting sends market prices through roof

By Trudi C. Ling  
YESTERDAY saw some of the most extraordinary scenes

ever on the stock market floor as sminting on an unprecedented scale sent prices

piralling upwards and completely out of control. At the outset, rumours of

sminting began to filter in from Tokyo and Hong Kong. Before long, the markets were

reacting with unstoppable force, as hysterical dealers were seen throwing little blue

rectangular packs into the air and shouting "buy, buy, buy!" All dealing was finally suspended when the FTSE burst through the 10,000 barrier. Growers men wept openly on each other's shoulders as they realised they had become instant millionaires several times over. Albert E. Hait, the Governor of the World Bank tried to calm the

sluggish response of house builders to the housing market recovery.

Although chartered surveyors questioned by RICS were optimistic that the industry would improve, the institute said their positive outlook had been influenced by a handful of large construction projects in the pipeline.

The institute also warned that the industry has been so badly damaged during the past few years that it may not be able to cope with improvements resulting from National Lottery related funding, the Millennium Fund and any future PFI successes.

THE construction industry is back in recession, according to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, which issued the warning in advance of government construction figures due to be published tomorrow, *writes Sarah Ryke*.

Despite optimism that the revival in the housing market will improve construction firms' profits, RICS said that a further 40,000 jobs would be lost this year.

RICS blamed the failure of the Government's Private Finance Initiative to replace dwindling publicly funded investment quickly as well as

the situation but in reality it was a futile gesture in the eye of the hurricane. The markets are due to open again as normal this morning; but can things ever be normal again after 24 hours in which the entire global financial infrastructure was well and truly sminted?

It seems most unlikely.

Makes your mouth a much nicer place.

Emily Sheppard



Labour wants captains of industry to tip the balance. Larry Elliott and Simon Beavis report



Under control... Tony Blair, with deputy leader John Prescott in the shadows, wants the business world to endorse his policies

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN SMITH

# 'We can do business'

THE love-in with business held yesterday to launch Labour's autumn political offensive was a far cry from the policies advocated by the party on the last occasion it managed to win an election.

In 1974, Tony Benn was industry secretary and his diaries recall how he gave short shrift to Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of the then nationalised Rolls-Royce when the industrialist said he had been asked to run the ailing company by Ted Heath and didn't expect to be "buggered about by junior ministers, civil servants and officials".

As Tony Blair summed up yesterday: "I strongly believe

that it is unhealthy for our political life that one party should be supported by business and the other not. New Labour is increasingly seen as a party with whom you can do business."

The new thinking has echoes of Clinton's America, particularly the strategy of triangulation, in which the President cherry-picks the most voter-friendly ideas from both the Democrats and the Republicans. It recognises that old battles have been lost, but that the drift away from the free-market excesses of the late 1980s has given parties of the left room to peddle their message of working together in an atmosphere of mild interventionism.

This is not a new message. It is the message of 1992 repeatedly repeated in the hope that it receives vital endorsements from the business community. Yesterday's boost was that Cob Stenham,

## THE PLEDGES

- Set tough rules for government spending and borrowing, ensuring low inflation and strengthening the economy to keep interest rates low
- Take a central role in a Europe that is anti-protectionist
- Raise standards in all schools and give workers chance to learn new skills
- Back small business, improving access to finance and information, and taking tough action on late payment
- Improve competitiveness through a new partnership between government and business, including a revitalised private finance initiative

chairman of Arjo Wiggins, the paper company, was backing Blair. This is useful ammunition for Labour when the Tories roll out such supporters as Lord Hanson and Dixons chairman Stanley Kalms.

Neil Kinnock could have done with similar endorsements in 1992 but got none, even though all the main decisions had already been taken. With the exception of 1993, when the dramatic emergence of the Liberal-SDP Alliance, produced a Labour

manifesto of full-bodied socialism, the 1990s saw a steady dilution.

Faced with the expense of reversing privatisation, the option of re-nationalisation went from social ownership to tougher regulation to the imposition of a windfall tax on utilities. Labour went from a pledge to repeal trade union curbs to partial repeal to a position where unions will have to fight for any extension of their powers and a selective approach to the Maastricht Social Chapter.

Both the 1992 manifesto and the new paper stress a stable macro-economic environment, low tax, low inflation and steady interest rates. Both promise only light intervention — not blicking the market, but making sure it works properly.

Privatisation is dealt with in both documents with promises to toughen regulation of the privatised utilities. Only the promise of a windfall tax really sets the 1996 document slightly apart.

The real effort since 1992

has been put into wooing business. It was a process started by John Smith before the April 1992 defeat when, armed with a glass of dry white wine, he marched into the City to convince the sceptical that Labour could be trusted with the economy.

Since then, business has been besieged by Labour — helped by the Tories' incompetent handling of the economy.

But Labour has realised that depending on John Major's record of incompetence is dangerous sport. Successful elections have proved that Tories can turn a shabby Parliamentary session into a stunning victory with the promise of tax cuts.

Front-benchers have toured the country speaking to regional CBI gatherings and almost every chamber of commerce, visiting workplaces and boardrooms and eagerly taking up invitations to speak at the annual conferences of the leading business groups.

At these gatherings an energetic and amenable Tony Blair has eclipsed Government ministers. In addition, Labour has created a more private arena — the Industry Forum — in which to court industry, from the top echelons of the CBI to the smallest start-up company.

In previous elections, the clamour for business has been "Vote Tory, You Know It Makes Sense". Labour hopes the new view from Britain's boardrooms will be that expressed by one delegate yesterday — "We expect a Labour government and it doesn't frighten us."

## Manifest change

Labour's changing policies on privatisation

**1974** Extension of public sector 'where most needed' — ports, shipbuilding, aerospace into public ownership... public sector not confined to loss makers



**1979** Right to take stakes in companies to which financial aid is granted



**1983** Begin return of privatised industries to state ownership, British Aerospace re-established as major public corporation and promised national telecoms cable system under public ownership



**1987** Social ownership of stakes in privatised companies starting with Government's residual 49 per cent holding in British Telecom — this will be used to ensure proper influence in their decisions. Shares in British Gas to be converted to special new securities



**1992** Stronger regulation of privatised utilities



**1996** Stronger regulation of privatised utilities and Windfall Tax

## Print chief fears the worst

THE BUSINESSMAN/Sarah Ryle finds Labour's message not getting through

WHEN the Labour Party sent its emissary to the business community of Bedfordshire, the chairman of the chamber of commerce, Charles Rose, he does not appear to regret it. He cannot even remember the MP's name only that he hailed from around Wolverhampton.

As Tony Blair and Gordon Brown wooed the bigger business in London yesterday, Mr Rose, the inheritor of a small printing firm in Bedford, pondered the Labour message for people like himself. He acted like a man who was braced for the possibility of a Blair victory rather than one who was going to be carried along on the current wave of schmooze.

"I've actually got money on the Tories winning the next election," he confessed. "I got odd. Yesterday, William Hill was offering 7-4 against the Conservatives winning an outright majority so he got a good deal."

Sipping Earl Grey tea from a Chelsea football club mug, Mr Rose argued that Labour was not what it purported to be. He said there was the image, the new Labour which claimed to believe in the marketplace, but that the reality was different.

"We had Ken Livingstone come to talk to us a few months ago and he said he believes in markets now. That got a good reception. But it was all about regulation and legislation."

Regulation and legislation are evil words to Mr

Rose and many of the 1,200 other members of Bedford's chamber of commerce. "It is all about competition," he said. "It's taken 10 years, but I now have so many telecom companies trying to sell me services at tremendous rates. I would premise the Post Office like a shot."

Unlike the postal workers, the staff at Mr Rose's company, EF Taylor, have never taken industrial action, he proudly noted, despite the firm's proximity to the headquarters of the GPMU, the printers' union.

His company, which makes cartons for products from Elastoplast and aspirin to fancy toiletries, has

had sticky moments. It has had to rationalise in the face of computerisation but it rode out the last recession and has an annual turnover of £7 million.

For a tight operation regulation brings costly red tape. Mr Rose did not believe that Labour would be able to resist creating more of it. "Government should leave business to the people who know how to run it. That is the Conservative philosophy. It is not Labour's."

He argued that this is what is keeping the business community on its guard. Interference covered a multitude of sins: the minimum wage, Europe's social legislation and

Labour's own brand of training in the workplace.

The minimum wage itself did not worry him. He said none of the 103 workers at his firm earned less than £4.50 an hour. "A minimum wage will push up all pay," he argued.

He could not understand why British employers would want to vote for a party that would accept the European social chapter conditions. These, he said, would increase their labour bills instantly. His only hope for Labour was that it would maintain stability in the economy; keep regulation to a minimum and keep its word on education. But then, his real hope was not to lose his bet.



Charles Rose... leave business to people who know how to run it

## Sweeping roads is ultimate prize

THE JOBLESS/Peter Hetherington talks to disillusioned students in Newcastle

THEY can arrange almost anything — child care, travel subsistence, counselling and the inevitable benefit advice — to attract students to the "preparation for work" course at the John Marley Education Centre.

What they can't do is make wage rates sufficiently attractive to lure the jobless from welfare to work. For many, a vacancy for a road sweeper, at a weekly rate of £210, is considered the ultimate prize.

"Everyone wants it because they think that's a really good wage — there's a great deal of cynicism about employment offers around here," says a lecturer, while her small class considers the merits of Labour's eventual aim for a 10p or 15p starting rate of income tax.

Naturally, everyone at the centre, in the west end of Newcastle upon Tyne, wants to pay less tax. "If I thought they could achieve that, it would certainly swing my vote," says Mariana Ward, to hollow laughter from her fellow students, like Cassius Kallow. "Labour is not going to change anything — not this Labour Party anyway," he interjects scornfully.

The prospect of even a 5p cut on the current minimum

rate of 39p seemed a predictable pre-election ploy to Labour-supporting mature students. They recount jobs paying £2 an hour — and less.

"The mother goes back to work and immediately loses lots of benefits like free nursery provision for the kids, housing benefit, free prescriptions, and much more," recounts Mariana, who has brought up four children. "Sadly, people decide they are better off not working."

Or, perhaps, working in the "black economy", and varying the route home each night — few bemoaning or cleaning, perhaps — to avoid detection by DSS investigators.

Syad Hussain, however, would like to think Labour can deliver. As a waiter, he was until recently earning "slave rates of between £50 and £70 weekly" — with tips thrown in if he was lucky. "Paying less tax would help more people on their feet," he says.

But without minimum wage legislation, some think employers would take advantage of any tax cuts. "They might drive wages down even more," says 21-year-old Mark Spoor. "All parties are going to be full of promises at this time, aren't they?"

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 1 9180	France 7 714	Italy 2 330	Singapore 2 155
Austria 15 85	Germany 2 256	Malta 0 5435	South Africa 6 83
Belgium 46 41	Greece 363 30	Netherlands 2 5325	Spain 190 65
Canada 2 087	Hong Kong 11 62	New Zealand 2 203	Sweden 10 25
Cyprus 0 6570	India 55 95	Norway 9 515	Switzerland 1 329
Denmark 8 76	Ireland 0 9370	Portugal 233 25	Turkey 130 608
Finland 6 99	Israel 4 83	Saudi Arabia 5 85	USA 1 5325

Supplied by NatWest Bank, excluding Indian rupee and local cheques

## Cadbury might be sweetest as an also-ran

Outlook  
Lisa Buckingham

CADBURY Schweppes, the sweets and fizzy drinks company, is hard to knock. Yes, there have been takeover rumours, but more because Cadbury looks like a plum rather than the fact that its management is in danger of losing its way.

Half-time figures from the group yesterday, which showed profits up 12 per cent despite heavy duty competition from some of the largest consumer companies in the world, such as Coca-Cola and Nestle, appeared to underline the point. And chairman Dominic Cadbury added to expectations by predicting a rosy outcome for the full year. Shares dutifully responded by rising 9p to 320.5p, the best result for a while.

Unlike many other British corporations, Cadbury has made acquisitions in America, such as Dr Pepper/Seven-Up, which look to be fulfilling their promise. Dr Pepper's sales outpaced growth in the strong US market, while Seven-Up managed a 2 per cent sales increase despite strident price-cutting competition from Sprite, owned by Coca-Cola, which added to the pressure by dumping a couple of Cadbury brands from its bottling system.

Yet after a 300-year track record, aided by Britain's erstwhile empire ties, Cadbury still has its nose pressed against the door of the first division of soft drink and confectionery companies.

It is number three, after Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, in terms of carbonated drinks — but there is an almost unbridgeable gulf between being number three and one of the two majors in this \$120 billion (£77 billion) a year market. Cola may be growing more slowly than other fizzy drinks, but Cadbury would have to break the marketing sound barrier to creep up on Coca-Cola, with a more than 40 per cent share.

The British company recently signalled its intent to concentrate, where possible, on the higher-margin "brand owning" side of the business by selling out its share of the UK joint venture bottling operation with Coca-Cola.

That netted £822.5 million, much of which will be used to cut the company's £1.6 billion of debt, which will leave it comfortably positioned for more acquisitions, albeit not necessarily on the scale of Dr Pepper, which cost it \$1.7 billion last year.

There lies the rub. Cadbury says it wants to be the num-

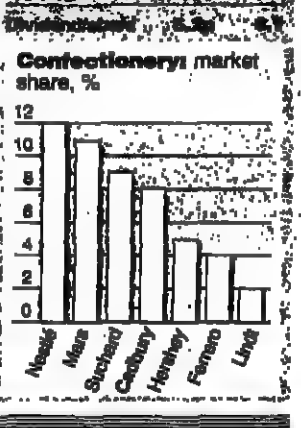
ber one "non-cola" soft drinks group, and it also wants to be number three in the world confectionery league table by the end of the decade.

But both involve large increases in market share, which analysts think will require sizeable acquisitions. In soft drinks, Dr Pepper was the last decent-sized target to go for. In confectionery, there are smaller companies — Hershey, Ferrero and Lindt — but ownership complications mean they are, to all intents and purposes, unavailable.

Cadbury argues that high investment — it is expected to spend more than £700 million on marketing alone this year — will provide the necessary growth from markets such as Russia and India.

But City types look at Cadbury and argue — helped by the fashion for demergers — that there are no benefits to be gained by holding both parts of the company together. Supported by theories that brand companies have to be number one or two to prosper, they contend Cadbury will have to pull out of drinks to have the money to catapult itself into the big league for confectionery. The company's incoming chief executive, John Sunderland, has grown up on the sweets side and may be tempted to go for bust in the field he knows.

But, with a far from unhappy recent track record, Cadbury could do worse than content itself by cutting a decent living as an also-ran in two of the world's fastest growing consumer sectors.



## News in brief

### EC and Germany in VW compromise

THE European Commission and the German government yesterday backed away from an all-out confrontation over state subsidies paid to Volkswagen that were considered illegal by Brussels. Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert said the two sides agreed on a compromise allowing the German car maker to keep DM91 million (£28.5 million) in aid it has already received from the eastern German state of Saxony, even though the commission has ruled the money illegal under EU rules. However, Bonn won't pay a similar amount of aid that VW had been due to receive in coming months.

Bonn's commitment to freeze future aid meant the commission would no longer seek an injunction from the European Court forcing VW to repay the money to Saxony. Mr Van Miert added. The commission will still ask the Luxembourg court to rule on the legality of the Saxony payment, but a decision could take years. — *Julia Wolf in Brussels*

### No Refuge from pressure

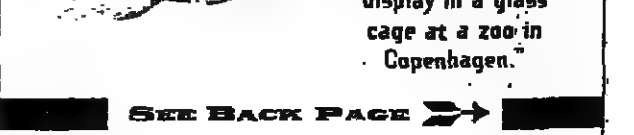
REFUGE Group yesterday bowed to pressure from rebel shareholders and agreed to alter some of the terms of its proposed merger with rival life insurer United Friendly. But the move failed to appease the merger's most vocal opponents — Perpetual and First Marathon — who both said they would probably still vote against the deal because the new terms did not appear to go far enough. The rebels argue that Refuge shareholders will lose out because Refuge's surplus funds, known as orphan assets, may have been undervalued by £400 million.

Refuge's chief executive, John Cudworth, said that assurances would be given to Refuge shareholders that they would receive additional payouts if the Department of Trade and Industry alters its ruling on the orphan estate in the future. Mr Cudworth said the vote on the merger will now take place on September 26, not September 9 as originally planned. — *Pauline Springett*

### BTR sells Tilcon to Irish

BTR yesterday continued the rationalisation of its sprawling business with the £212 million sale of Tilcon, its American building materials arm, to Irish group CRH.

BTR, which is looking to sell around a fifth of all its businesses following a wide-ranging strategic review, has now raised over £700 million from sales in 1996. CRE reported a 13 per cent rise in half-year, pre-tax profits to £264.1 million. — *Len King*



SEE BACK PAGE

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'مکان الیچا'



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weetest  
also-ran

Tennis

# Cool Graf puts all her worries aside

Stephen Bierley  
at Flushing Meadows

STEFFI GRAF yesterday reached the US Open semi-finals for the 11th time in 12 years. It is as if she does so by habit. Austria's Judith Wiesner exerts as much pressure as she could but she could have done with a little more of her compatriot Thomas Muster's devil.

Graf won 7-5, 6-3 and Wiesner, who has never reached a Grand Slam semi-final and never beaten Graf in 10 meetings, paid tribute to the German's powers of concentration.

"I can't think of anyone having a more difficult time than Steffi. I am amazed anybody can shrug off all that stuff," she said. There are indeed immensely difficult times for the women's joint No. 1, whose father Peter goes on trial for tax evasion today.

Graf's great strength, apart from her talent, is her ability to put her off-court problems aside. The emotions often bubble to the surface afterwards, no matter how often she tries to suppress them, but she continues to love competition. It is undoubtedly a release.

She has not been playing particularly well here so far, although nobody has really extended her. Clearly at odds with herself, she is shaking her head and fretting at an array of unforced errors as Wiesner, who had beaten the

fifth seed Iva Majoli of Croatia in the first round, led 4-2 in the first set, but this concentrated Graf's mind all the more.

"I hope I can go on to the semis before I retire," said Wiesner, 30, who reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final at Wimbledon this year after nine years of trying.

Peter McNamara, the English-based coach of the 19-year-old Wimbledon champion, believes that the 19-year-old Australian belongs with Britain's Tim Henman, 22 tomorrow, among the most likely youngsters to break into the top 10 in the next couple of years. He is hoping to bring them together this month, after their Davis Cup commitments, for a week of training and practice.

This is assuming Henman has shaken off his groin problem. He is out of next week's Bournemouth Open but hopes to be fit for the cup tie against Egypt on September 20. Henman and Philippoussis were both obviously disappointed to lose their fourth-round matches against Stefan Edberg and Pete Sampras respectively. Likened to Henman to "a mini Sampras" though adding that the British No. 1 was

"one level below as of now". What makes Henman such an exciting prospect is that he has the temperament to go with his undoubted ability.

"Tim can only get better and he will," said his coach David Felger, a view endorsed by John McEnroe.

Henman was not prepared to blame his groin injury, which needed treatment in the fourth and final set against Edberg, for the defeat. "It was sore and uncomfortable but it really did not affect me," he insisted.

Those who saw Philippoussis beat Sampras in straight sets in the third round of this year's Australian Open rate it one of the most remarkable performances of the past 50 years. The Australian, who like Sampras is of Greek descent, played with such intense power and unerring accuracy that the American No. 1 was simply swamped.

Yet when they met again, in the second round at Wimbledon, Sampras knew exactly what to expect. His concentration was absolute and his game as tight as the strings of his racket. Philippoussis lost in straight sets, and did so here under the floodlights.

Philippoussis refused to compromise, going for winners of virtually every stroke including his second serve, which was frequently timed at more than 100mph. He will learn, just as Henman is learning and progressing.



Nice try... Judith Wiesner led Steffi Graf 4-3 in the first set, but to no avail OSAMU HONDA

## Racing

# Split ban gives Eddery green light for Leger

Chris Hawkins

PAT EDDERY will be able to ride Dushyant in the St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday week despite picking up a two-day ban yesterday.

In a retrospective enquiry Eddery was suspended for excessive use of the whip on Eva Luna in the Galtes Stakes at the Ebor meeting two weeks ago.

Fortunately for Eddery, under the rules he is allowed to split the ban, meaning he will be sidelined on the day before the St Leger and the following Monday.

Eddery hit Eva Luna 14 times after turning into the straight but kept getting a response from the filly who has a battle royal with the Allow and won by a head.

It was a stirring finish and without Eddery's assistance it is doubtful if Eva Luna, who ran green, would have won. There was no question of misuse of the whip and this is another case of a jockey being penalised for trying too hard.

Dushyant is 7-2 favourite with Coral for the Leger followed at 4-1 by his great Voltaire victimions.

Monday's well in a slow run race, creating the impression that Dushyant might have been coming to the end of his tether although on breeding he has a fair chance of staying a mile and three-quarters being by second slightly dangerous.

I have heard doubts expressed about the ability of Sadler's Wells (average winning distance of progeny 11.5 furlongs) to get horses that stay beyond a mile and a half. But this champion sire, who stands at £120,000 a throw, has had winners at two miles and more although admittedly mainly older horses.

His three-year-olds to win at 14 furlongs or farther in recent seasons have been Istabraq, Well Beloved, Jundi, Brumoz and Saint Keyne.

Of course there would have been more if they had been tried at such distances but it

is not fashionable, nor are there comparable opportunities, to race horses beyond a mile and a half.

Deshari expects to ride the 10-chance Shantou in the Leger, although he has the option of Sharaf Kabeer on whom he won the March Stakes at Goodwood. Sharaf Kabeer is a big, handsome colt but still thought to be something of a baby.

Nothing much went right for Eddery at York yesterday. He failed to ride a winner after his brush with the stewards and was beaten on two favourites.

One of the most impressive winners of the afternoon was Options Open in the Lawrence Batley Handicap.

Lynda Ramsden has him in particularly good form at the moment and she had no trouble in confirming his victory of two weeks ago over Double Splendour despite being six weeks off.

Options Open picked up a 7lb penalty for the Ladbroke Styr Gold Cup but that is the target. He was cut from 14-1 to 10-1 by the sponsors.

Another to incur a big-race penalty was Jlyush who advertised his Tote Caserewitch claims with a determined victory in the Batleys Cash & Curry Handicap.

Ladbroke slashed him from 25-1 to 16-1 but Henry Cecil's Canon Can is the favourite at 8-1 (only 5-1 with the sponsors) having escaped a penalty for an easy win at Pontefract over two and a quarter miles on Tuesday.

Canon Can has only 7st 5lb in the big Newmarket Handicap, the weights being headed by the Martin Pipe-trained Daraydan with 9st 10lb.

On another competitive card at York today, Arabian Story (3.40) stands out in the Sun Life of Canada Garowby Handicap. He trotted up in the amateur riders' race at Epsom and even allowing for the skill of his rider, Luis Urbano, the form looks reliable.

A drop in distance can enable 2,000 Guineas second Even Top (3.10) to resume winning ways in the nine-furlong Strensall Stakes.

Golf

# Monty can top the list

Colin Montgomerie, who only ever wants to win, can relax his high standards just a tad this week, writes David Davies in Cransbury, Stirling

THE SCOT, keen to be European No. 1 for the fourth successive year, can settle for second in the Canon European Masters starting here today and still knock his fiercest rival, Ian Woosnam, off the top of the Volvo rankings.

Woosnam, who leads by

£68,057, has chosen not to play, even though this is one of the richest events on the tour - prize money is £768,000 and the first prize £120,000. Woosnam's points are being awarded.

He is saving himself for a succession of big-money tournaments, with £3 million available in prize-money this month alone.

The Welshman knows that if he were to win two of the next six 72-hole events, that alone would practically see

him into the Ryder team for Valderrama.

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Open which is incorporated in this event. For most of its history it has been held at Crans, on a plateau high in the Alps.

There have been some good winners over the years - Bobby Locke, Kel Nagle, Dai Rees, Severiano Ballesteros, Nick Price, Nick Faldo, Jose Maria Olazabal and Woosnam - and

there have also been some less-than-vintage years. Chris Moody won his only tour event here, as did Jamie Spence and Jeff Hawkes, but last year Mathias Gronberg shocked everyone, including himself, by winning.

Another winner here has become a quiz question. Which player holds the record for being most under par over 72 holes on the European tour? The answer is the Canadian Jerry Anderson, who in one sublime spell in 1984 got round Crans in 27 under par. He was subsequently sunk without trace.

Montgomerie will start favourite this week, but he is overwhelping himself, meaning that a round of 70 - easily accomplished here - would have won him the title. Instead he took 71 and finished behind Spence and Anders Forsbrand.

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## York with form guide for the televised races

3.10 Tynes Todd  
3.40 White Saddle  
3.10 Even Top

3.40 ARABIAN STORY (imp)  
4.10 Zebra  
4.40 Ambling Lass

3.10 Road Race

Channel 4

4.10 HUNTINGTON HURRY HANICAP 2YO 1m 47.00

101 443 PARRY BOMBARDIER (4) 5/2  
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Channel 4

3.10 HYPERBALL STAKES (4th Race) 1m 17.50

301 101131 BISHOP (4) 5/2  
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303 101133 BISHOP (4) 5/2  
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4.10 HUNTINGTON HURRY HANICAP 2YO 1m 47.00

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Channel 4

4.40 PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN BOY OF YOUNGERS MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 1m 47.00

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Plumpton (N.H.) programme

3.30 Pair of Jacks  
3.00 Kestrel  
3.30 Hurry Way

4.30 Lucky Domino  
4.00 Post Oak  
5.00 Bravado List

## Salisbury runners and riders

2.30 Brave Kris  
2.30 Rebel Crow  
2.30 Denning Drop

3.50 Honorable Estate  
4.20 Double Leaf  
4.50 Supreme Thought

2.50 WISKEY STALLIONS' FILLIES' MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 1m 47.00

101 443 PARRY BOMBARDIER (4) 5/2  
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4.00 HAYWARDS HEATH NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE 2m 17.50

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## Results

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Soccer

Martin Thorpe finds the Loftus Road club's new owner already searching for a manager after Ray Wilkins' sudden resignation

Graham and Rioch lead QPR list

GEORGE Graham and Bruce Rioch will head Queens Park Rangers' wanted list as they seek a replacement for Ray Wilkins after his shock resignation from the club.

"I was absolutely shocked by Ray's decision," said the Rangers chairman Chris Wright. "We tried to persuade him to stay but his mind was made up."

"Ray is a genuinely nice and caring person and his view was that for the benefit of himself and what he wants out of life, and for the benefit of QPR and what they want, it would be better for everybody if he moved on to something else. There was no hidden agenda, animosity or recriminations or anything like that."

Wilkins said: "I've been involved in professional football for over 20 years and I can honestly say that this is the hardest situation I have ever had to deal with. I sincerely wish everyone associated with the club all the very, very best for the future."

Although Wilkins, in charge at Loftus Road for 20 months, led Rangers to relegation last season and made some poor judgments in the transfer market, the team had started this season well and on Monday night he and the board agreed a wanted list of new players.

"Ray left that meeting with a very clear mandate of how to move forward and which players we were going to target, knowing the funds were in place," said Wright. "Then on Tuesday he said he wanted to leave."



Wilkins... 'hardest' position. As for his future, he said: 'I'll be having some time out with my family before reaching a decision. It could be a coaching job or a return to the TV work he loved.'

Dozen face Hauge probe

TWELVE current and former employees of Arsenal are being questioned by Norwegian police investigating allegations of fraud against the controversial agent Rune Hauge.

Among them is George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, who recently finished a one-year FA ban for accepting irregular payments from Hauge totalling £425,000. He will be questioned about the sale of Pal Lydarsen to Arsenal in 1991, a deal brokered by Hauge.

The Norwegians are also investigating another of Hauge's transfers, Alf Inge Haaland's move to Nottingham Forest in 1994. Hauge has been charged with obtaining £550,000 fraudulently from the two deals, plus tax evasion of £100,000. In pursuance of that, the Norwegian police have formally applied to the Home Office to speak to 13 witnesses in England.

Arnt Angell, senior public prosecutor of the Norwegian police department involved, the Okokrim, said yesterday: "There are 12 people we want to speak to, George Graham, Frank Clark and seven other current people at Arsenal and Nottingham Forest."

He refused to name the other 10, but they are understood to be the Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood, the vice-chairman Brian Clough, the chief executive Ken Friar, the former chief scout Steve Burmanhaw, the former Forest chairman Maurice Roworth, the current chairman Fred Roscher, the former manager Brian Clough, the former coach Ron Fenton, the current assistant manager Alan Hill and Haaland.

The Norwegian police have also been in discussions with the Fraud Squad in England, though the Fraud Squad said yesterday that they would consider launching their own investigation into the case only if a complaint or allegation were made.

Under international law the Home Office is unlikely to block the Norwegians' requests for interviews, but these will probably not take place until January. The transfers being investigated have long caused concern. The FA's report into Graham's ban concluded that when negotiating with the Norwegian club, part of Star's negotiating team, later revealed that, under the deal, Hauge's Guernsey-based company Interclub received £210,000.

The FA report found "wholly unconvincing" Graham's argument that the £425,000 he received from Hauge after the purchase of Lydarsen and John Jensen — from the Danish club Brøndby — was an unusual gift.

Haaland's move to Forest was agreed in late 1992 but delayed until January 1994. This time Hauge was acting for the Norwegian selling club Bryne, informing them that he had negotiated the £150,000 with Forest for the player.

When Bryne eventually won Hauge's contract with Forest it showed that the Premier League club had paid £200,000 for Haaland, with £50,000 of that going to Interclub.

A spokesman for Hauge said yesterday: "Nothing has ever been proved against me. Hauge had unalloyed money dealings with English clubs."

Liverpool weary of Collymore

STAN COLLYMORE is contemplating an uncertain future this morning despite starting last night's game at Coventry as a speculation mounts that his brief and tempestuous love affair with Liverpool is to end in divorce.

Only 14 months after embarking on what he described as a "big adventure" by joining the Merseyside club from Nottingham Forest for a then British record fee of £8.5 million, Collymore finds himself on a collision course with the club who saw fit to treat heavily in an instant.

To suggest that he has never really settled in the North-west is to miss the point. Since his transfer the England international has steadily refused to move from his home in Canwick 30 or so miles south of Liverpool.

Since joining a club who have always demanded professionalism on and off the pitch, he has done precious little to endear himself to either his employers or his teammates.

Last week Collymore, a man who is understood to pocket wages of around £15,000 a week, missed one training session after saying he had to tend to his sick mother and another because he was spending time with his seven-month-old child.

Liverpool's manager Roy Evans has now seemingly tired of the endless string of excuses and will inform him that he must find himself a base nearer Anfield. Although Liverpool would like to dispose of Collymore their problem is twofold. They do not have a suitable replacement, having allowed Ian Rush to join Leeds United, and they will struggle to convince any buyer that Collymore's valuation has not plunged since he left the City Ground.

The writing actually started to go on the wall for Collymore earlier this summer when Liverpool made determined, if discreet, attempts to sign Alan Shearer from Blackburn Rovers. Shortly before Shearer was sold to Newcastle for a world-record £15 million, Liverpool let it be known that they were anxious to strike a deal but could not do so until Collymore had been offloaded.

Evans is now searching for a new partner for Robbie Fowler but his first choice, Newcastle's Les Ferdinand, is not for sale at the moment. Barry Town have been given the go-ahead to install 3,500 additional seats at Jenner Park to take the capacity to 6,500 for the first leg of their UEFA Cup tie with Aberdeen on September 24.

The SFA's disciplinary committee will meet on Monday to judge the case of Falkirk's Albert Craig and Patrick Thistle's Gareth Evans. Craig was ordered off in a league game at Brockville last month and appeared to strike Evans en route to the dressing rooms.

Premiership: Arsenal 3, Chelsea 3

Wise makes a late point

David Lacey WITH Paul Merson inspired, Arsenal recovered from going 2-0 down to Chelsea at Highbury last night to draw level midway through the second half when Martin Keown rose high at the far post to head in from Merson's cross.

By then Chelsea had lost Leboeuf from their defence with a back injury and the sweeper's absence made it easier for Ian Wright, only on the field for four minutes, to give Arsenal the lead 12 minutes from time when he gathered a pass from Winterburn before lobbing Kharine.

Dennis Wise then preserved Chelsea's unbeaten run, latching on to John Spencer's through-pass to hit an equaliser three minutes into injury-time.

Arsenal's second London derby in four games always promised to be a more difficult encounter than their first, against a weakened Wimbledon side on the opening Saturday of the season. Not only were Chelsea unbeaten, they had yet to concede a goal.

Unlike Arsenal, moreover, they were under a new manager who had actually turned up; or rather, in Guiseppe Girotto's case, never gone away. Arsène Wenger, on the other hand, remained just a gleam in Highbury's eye and any French influences last night were always going to come from Leboeuf. The truth of this was borne out early as the sixth minute, though not quite in the way most had imagined.

Hughes found Wise who pushed the ball past Bould before going down under the centre-back's challenge. Lukic, his comeback for Arsenal hastened by Seaman's hamstring injury, was sent the wrong way by Leboeuf's penalty.

Arsenal and Highbury, not to mention Bould, felt hard done by. By Bould's standards the illegality of challenge had not been that blatant. Yet as Wise just failed to put the ball on to the end of Vialli's lunging foot in the goalmouth and Di Matteo swept past Liginhah in a blur of feet there was no doubting the worth of Chelsea's lead.

Merson represented Arsenal's best hope of outwitting Leboeuf in his sweeper's role. After 20 minutes he threaded a shrewdly-angled pass through the Chelsea defence but Parloir's touch was already letting him down as Arsenal slipped under the Highbury bowler for a complementary penalty.

Six minutes later Bergkamp, found near the left-hand byline by Merson's lob, skimmed the ball across the face of the goalmouth, missing three straining Arsenal heads on the way. A second goal seemed likely. Chelsea scored it a minute past the half-hour.

Gathering a ball from Vialli, Burley sidestepped Wimbledon's defence before sending the Italian striker in to the right of goal with his return pass. Vialli's shot appeared to have been saved by Lukic at the near post but the goalkeeper did not get his body behind the ball which then slipped underneath him and into the net.

Lukic did better five minutes later to deny Hughes a goal from Petrescu's cross. The goalkeeper palmed the ball out and Winterburn blocked Vialli's attempt to exploit the space.

Arsenal kept themselves in it on the stroke of half-time. Hartson nodded a ball from Winterburn to Bergkamp, who then laid it off for Merson to drive a low shot into the left-hand corner.

Arsenal: Lukic; Keown, Liginhah, Bould, Dixon, Parloir, Merson, Winterburn, Bergkamp, Hartson. Chelsea: Kharine, Johnson, Leboeuf, Clarke, Fabiano, Searles, Di Matteo, Wise, Myers, Hughes, Vialli. Referee: K. Burge (Tottenham).



Ball watching... Chelsea's Vialli and Arsenal's Bergkamp struggle to gain the upper hand. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Everton 0, Aston Villa 1

Ehigogu delivers the goods

ON THE basis that few teams will emerge victorious from Goodison Park this season, those who insist that Aston Villa are capable of sustaining a genuine push for the title may well have a point.

Admittedly Everton were uncharacteristically poor, but on route to a third consecutive league win Villa's football was fluent, compelling and, most significantly, effortlessly delivered.

On Merseyside there has been much talk of Everton doing something more than flatter to deceive this season. The jury is still out but few sides will match their prodigious work-rate in the months ahead. Indeed, it is such a tiring tactic that few will wish to try.

Villa tried and to a large extent succeeded, but their neat and tidy game based on schoolyard keep-ball was always more of a threat. Villa's midfield cut through Everton's defence often and with apparent ease, but the task of delivering the telling blow was invariably handed to the wrong man.

Everton's best openings came off the back of set pieces but, with the towering figure of Ferguson to pick out, that was inevitable. The closest a frenetic opening period came to yielding a goal was after 15 minutes when speed rose magnificently to turn a Hinchcliffe corner goalwards only to watch disbelievably as Wright cleared off the line.

If we had had a Russian linesman Villa might have led, with the Italian striker in to the right of goal with his return pass. Vialli's shot appeared to have been saved by Lukic at the near post but the goalkeeper did not get his body behind the ball which then slipped underneath him and into the net.

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Derby County 1, Manchester United 1

Fading Reds hold on

THE one-point specialists were quick on the draw again last night as Derby County and Manchester United shared the honours for the third time each in their opening four matches.

United had been given a fling when Uefa announced it had waived a suspension that would have prevented Cantona playing in the Champions' League at Juventus next week. The captain, it was decided, had already served the suspension when he missed United's UEFA Cup tie last season while his career was on hold after an attack on a Crystal Palace supporter.

Yet Derby started and finished stronger. Asanovic had a sighting shot with a free-kick that was deflected just wide of Schmeichel's goal, before Lauren stopped in to show how it should be done.

When May-bundled Sturridge to the ground in the 24th minute, Lauren took a run-up that would have warned a Derbyshire fast bowler's heart and lashed the free-kick into Schmeichel's top corner from 25 yards. United began to wake up and Gigg had a rasping drive tipped over by Houli before a stunning piece of brilliance by the Welshman set up United's equaliser.

In the 36th minute Darryl Powell jumped into a tackle and as the ball spun up Gigg back-headed it into Beckham's path. The new England international sprinted unerringly for goal before letting rip with an unstoppable drive into the top of Houli's net.

The second half began with a bang when Beckham and Asanovic began kicking lumps out of each other. The referee defused a potential flare-up by booking the United winger. The Rams bowler's heart and lashed the free-kick into Schmeichel's top corner from 25 yards.

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Dozen face Hauge probe

Rugby Union

England's elite give clubs full support

Robert Armstrong

THE English game was plunged deeper into crisis yesterday as the elite international squad pledged their support to breakaway plans by the top clubs after boycotting a scheduled Rugby Football Union training session at Bisham Abbey.

Meanwhile Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall and a former front-bench spokeswoman on sport, urged the Government to intervene in the bitter dispute between the clubs and Twickenham which has prompted accusations that the players are being manipulated.

The 43 players selected by the RFU to make up the England squad issued a brief statement backing the plans of English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd (Epruc) to run its own league and cup competitions and generate its own revenue.

Newcastle club, said: "It is very satisfying to learn that all the players have bypassed the England session. We are all sticking together for the good of the game."

However, the aborted training session prompted a terse reaction from the RFU, which registered "disappointment that the clubs have seen fit to use the players as a negotiating weapon."

That view was endorsed by Tim Rodber, the Northampton captain, who said: "We are being used as pawns. We would rather be playing or training but there is so much going on that this meeting is necessary to find out our position."

The six Leicester players in the squad made a point of training together before the meeting, Martin Johnson, the club's England lock, explained: "Keeping the work going is important to us. At least the Leicester boys have had a good session this morning. There was no pressure from our club to stay away from England. We made our own decisions."

There are fears that the players' boycott will continue indefinitely. Tony Gray and Dirk Tazelaar, who will miss the next RFU squad session on September 18.

Iain Sproat, the Sports Minister, was urged at Westminster by Hoey to "knock some heads together" to settle the dispute. "Tough action must now be taken," said Hoey.

"This grave situation in English rugby cannot be allowed to continue. I call on Mr Sproat to take the lead urgently to preserve the good name of English sport. Those involved must remind themselves in the face of this rugby fiasco of their national and international responsibilities. Sports lovers and rugby followers in particular should not allow their sport to be treated in this way."

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: DERBYSHIRE HELD UP ON THE ROAD TO THE TITLE



Snap shooting... Chris Lewis fires a short one at the Northants middle-order batsman

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Somerset v Derbyshire

Lathwell knock jogs a few old memories

David Foot at Taunton

THERE was once a Devon schoolboy called Mark Lathwell. He was small and devoid of emotion and possessed an attractive penchant for stroking boundaries with an instinctive rapidity that reminded Tauntonians of Harold Gimblett.

His initial county statistics were so impressive that, despite a refreshingly unpretentious demeanour and what some opined to be a lack of ambition, he was chosen to play for his country.

That was when the pundits started to find fault, saying that his feet were wrongly positioned and that he had neither the technique nor the temperament to be a genuine England player.

Lathwell, who one suspects prefers the less hectic pursuit of playing darts in his village pub, and appears to keep his cricketing aspirations in a disguised, modest perspective, scored only 737 championship runs last season and was dropped.

against the county he had left without much apparent affection.

Derbyshire's total was their highest ever against Somerset. Krikken, with 13 runs and surviving a slip chance, buzzed along for 88. Roberts, a debutant left-hander from the Bradford League, reached a half-century before departing to a leaping one-handed catch in the covers by Batty.

At times, it must be said, Somerset bowled and fielded with what seemed like their hearts in their boots. Van Troost is likely to be out for the season with a groin strain and that meant limited options were available to Bowler. Caddick and Kerr took three wickets each but Somerset have nothing to play for — and it shows.

Derbyshire, in contrast, have a great deal for which to strive. Their calculations were temporarily clouded by Somerset's reply. They are, however, revealing faith in untried talent and it does not appear to be misplaced.

Harris produced pace and promise on a tepid pitch and earned, to some surprise from the batsman, Bowler's wicket. Roberts completed some tidy overs, but an end to Ecclestone's stay.

Surrey v Northamptonshire

Julian fills tricky foreign part

Paul Weaver at The Oval

WHEREAS some counties pop along to Harrods to purchase an overseas player, Surrey have recently done their shopping from those scruffy "or nearest offer" ads in newsagents' windows.

Their efforts to sign a replacement for Waqar Younis evoke an image of Martin Scorsese popping down to Tooting Rep to find a substitute for De Niro or Pacino.

Julian took three wickets as Northants struggled to 95 for six in reply to Surrey's 396, and then, just when the visitors looked likely to avoid the follow-on, he returned to dismiss David Ripley, Curtly Ambrose and Paul Taylor.

Northants were all out for 235, 160 runs behind, but in the event Alec Stewart declined to enforce the follow-on.

Montgomery had leg-gled the first delivery of Northamptonshire's innings for four but was caught at short leg next ball.

Surrey, facing an inexperienced side, appeared rampant. Loye was well caught by Butcher at slip, Swann played out, Curran was bowled by a Julian inswinger, Capel played straight to gully and Sales was caught at slip. Ripley (35) and Snape (36 not out) then put on 87 in 22 overs before Julian's return.

Warwickshire v Essex

A tale of three misses as Gooch sets out to eclipse Khan

Paul Fitzpatrick at Edgbaston

WASIM KHAN was dropped off the last ball of the day on Tuesday. It was a miss which Essex were to regret for more than four hours yesterday as the left-hander made 126.

At the start of the season Warwickshire had earmarked the 25-year-old Khan as the man to fill the considerable gap left by Roger Twose, whose career is now consigned to New Zealand. Because of an injury to Moles and Knight's call-ups for England, however, the plan to give him an extended run at No. 3 has not been implemented.

This was only his fourth match there, but in two of them now he has made a hundred.

The first represented a significant contribution to an emphatic victory over Durham. This one, though, will probably give him the greater satisfaction.

Warwickshire twice allowed Gooch to escape and they may yet rue those misses more than Essex did the escape of Khan. Ostler, at gully, failed to hold a sharp chance when the former England captain slashed at Small when on 22; and Gooch was only 38 when Munton put down a second, easier chance.

Gooch celebrated his fortune by hitting the unlucky bowler Smith back over his head for six. The old boy, after his pottering first innings, looks as dangerous as ever.

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Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire

Whitaker shows up frayed Notts

David Hopps at Trent Bridge

WHEN the heavily pregnant Jackie Johnson strolled around the boundary yesterday as her husband Paul supervised Nottinghamshire's resistance, it was difficult to determine who was bearing the weightier load.

Nottinghamshire, Sunday frivolous apart, have had a mediocre time during Johnson's first season in charge, and a limited side has done little over the first two days to suggest that they are equipped to halt Leicestershire's championship challenge.

Leicestershire's first innings has gone so according to plan that it might have been played out on computer. The pitch remained sluggish but reliable. Wells and Whitaker made vigilant hundreds, and at 341 for five at the close they held a lead of 17.

In the land of the aberrant astrophysicist — nearly deluged by the rain of the day — Nott's Newest Five House — it was more a case of just dotting the i's and crossing the t's. When times are hard, attitudes become negative, and Afford passed the day bowling his left-arm spin over the wicket. With his close-cropped hair, awkward gait and rigorous spectacles he resembles a Marxist-Leninist mature student who has concluded, with reluctance, that rigorous exercise is philosophically good for him.

That belief might have been abandoned in the opening overs after lunch when he was refused an appeal for a leg-side catch. Noon held the ball in mid-pitch for at least five seconds before getting on with the game, suspecting perhaps that a juggling attempt had been marked down for artistic impression.

Afford's failure to hold a leg-side catch when Whitaker made only three more runs hardly enhanced his mood, and a grudging contest developed. Whitaker, who has combined adventurous strokeplay and empathetic captaincy in his most satisfying season since his won England recognition in 1982, a decade ago, won this contest, his unbeaten 116 occupying nearly five hours.

Wells's lost seasons in Kent's second XI are increasingly hard to understand. His late development, at 31, comes with an age when most men plan retirement, and if he becomes an unlikely member of England's A tour this autumn he will invariably be mistaken for the scorer.

His four-hour 116, blessed with some lusty pulls, ensured that Nottinghamshire's seamers failed to prosper. Evans was hampered by a hip strain but Downman's medium pace at least brought him something to savour; Wells's slice to cover point and Smith's return catch gave him his maiden first-class wicket.

Motor Racing

German grudge battle looming

Alan Henry

THE stage is set for a spectacular grid match for the 1997 world championship now that Heinz-Harald Frentzen is confirmed as Damon Hill's successor at Williams next season.



Betsch... femme fatale

Mercedes sports-car days as every bit as quick as Schumacher, has spent the past three years struggling to make an impression in the cockpit of an uncompetitive Sauber. His best placing was third in last year's Italian GP at Monza. This year he has twice finished fourth, in Monaco and Spain, and lies 10th in the table with six points.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for match, score, and other statistics. Includes matches like Lancashire v Middlesex, Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire, and Warwickshire v Essex.

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FEUDS CORNER

MANSFIELD v PIQUET

1986/87 NELSON PIQUET saw Nigel Mansell as a journeyman brought in as his No.2 at Williams, the Englishman regarded Piquet as a simpler

ing moaner. The edge lasted to the end of the 1987 season when both men left the team.

PROST v SENNA

1988/89 AYTON SENNA thrived on tension and conflict at McLaren, undermining Alain Prost's position as the team's favourite. Prost reckoned on a no-passing deal at the 1989 Monaco Grand Prix, having the previous year tried to push him into the pit wall at Estoril. Senna rammed him off the track in Japan in 1990 after Prost's switch to Ferrari.

HILL v SCHUMACHER

1994/95 MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, then with Benetton, reckoned Damon Hill was not up to the job of Williams No.1. Their collision in the 1994 Australian Grand Prix gave the German the title.

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Graf through to semi-finals, page 13  
Hauge inquiry moves to Britain, page 14

Wilkins walks out on QPR, page 14  
England teams backs rebel clubs, page 15

# Sports Guardian

KEEGAN'S MEN GIVE SUNDERLAND A GOAL START AND COME AWAY WITH A WIN

Premiership: Sunderland 1, Newcastle 2

## Ferdinand leads the Newcastle fightback

Michael Walker

**T**HE last-ever Tyne & Wear League Derby to be played at Roker Park ended in despair for the Rovers last night. They saw their side take an early lead against an apparently feeble Newcastle side only for those arch-rivals to summon the spirit of old in the second half.

Peter Beardsley and Les Ferdinand led a dramatic fightback with goals that cancelled Scott's penalty and ended Sunderland's unbeaten run.

Bite as well as brilliance was Kevin Keegan's rallying call and he brought in Peacock to supply the former in place of Albert, the elegant Belgian. The Newcastle manager also relegated Asprilla to the bench, preferring the more traditional virtues of Beardsley to those of the flamboyant Colombian.

Newcastle fans may have been banned from the first meeting of the clubs in more than three years, but a wall of noise was nevertheless heard from the Fulwell End. Bite was the most necessary requirement of a predictably

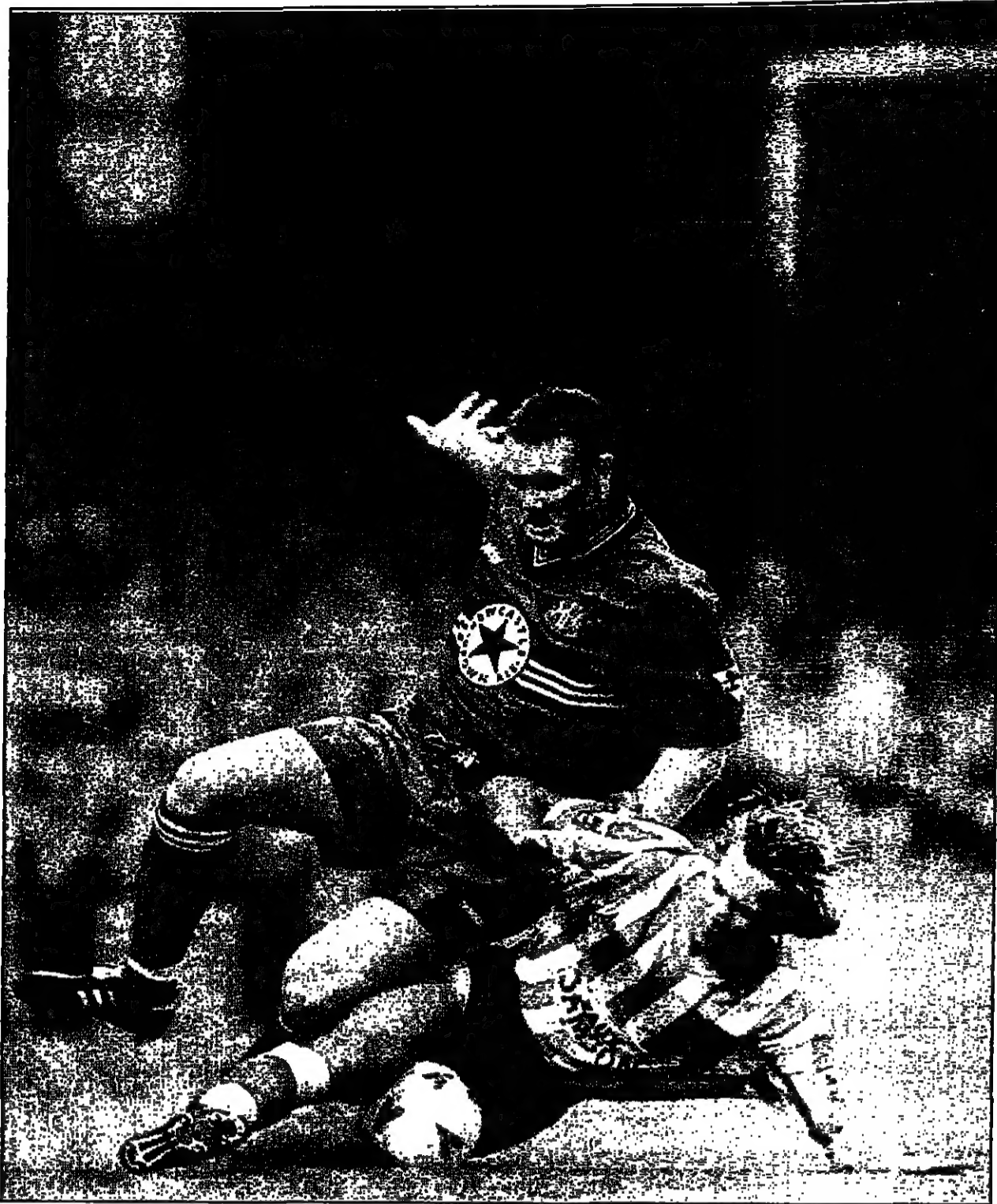
frantic opening, but there was still room for moments of good football, particularly from the home side.

The Sunderland back four were neat in possession while Ball and Bracewell were hungry but comfortable in midfield. A series of red attacks flowed towards Srinsek's goal, and it took less than 20 minutes for Newcastle's rearranged defence to succumb to the persistent pressure.

Keegan had brought back Peacock to combat Niall Quinn's height, but the danger came from what is known as "old-fashioned wing play". Wing-backs are all the rage, and when the best are talked about Steve Agnew's name rarely gets a mention, but when he collected Ball's pass in the 19th minute he knew the script word for word.

Running at the exposed Elliott, angled right and was clipped on the way. Penalty. There was no arguing with the decision, nor with the penalty kick, rammed home in emphatic style by Sunderland's talented left-back Martin Scott.

Newcastle had barely got going and on the sporadic occasions they did threaten they



Total commitment... Newcastle's Watson tussles with Gray of Sunderland for a midfield ball. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL STEELE

only to double back, and as a result Shearer and Ferdinand were almost unemployable. More significantly Newcastle were losing the majority of one-on-one situations, and the Roker men had chances to extend their lead when Stewart hit a post and Gray cracked a shot straight at Srinsek.

Someone must have had a word with Ginola at half-time about his profligate approach work, because the Frenchman was immediately more direct after the interval and Newcastle were now galvanised.

The Frenchman's high cross found Ferdinand at the far post but the England striker was penalised for a foul as he challenged the goalkeeper Tony Coton. Six minutes later Ferdinand took a leaf from Ginola's book. He zipped past a clutch of red shirts and showed velcro-tight control before crossing to Beardsley, whose header looped slowly into the net. The ball sailed in as if in slow motion but it crept in all the same.

The visitors had rediscovered their menace and 10 minutes later they were deservedly ahead. Ferdinand was again the key, this time reaching Ginola's flaring corner kick to score from 10 yards with the most decisive of flying headers. The corner had been conceded after a mistake by Ord and it was the tenacity of Shearer that had caused it.

Sunderland: Coton, Kubisa, Ball, Melville, Ord, Scott, Bracewell, Gray, Stewart, Agnew, Quinn, Newcastle: Srinsek, Watson, Peacock, Howe, Elliott, Beardsley, Betty, Lee, Ginola, Shearer, Ferdinand. Referee: J Winter (Worcestershire).

## Strike threats nothing new under the sun



Frank Keating

**E**NGLAND players going on strike and refusing to train for their country? Bolshevism in sport? Dammit, whatever next? As usual there is nothing new under the sun.

The rugby union squad's solidarity was mighty impressive when the England manager Jack Rowell and his coaches turned up yesterday and found they had only Bisham Abbey's flowerbeds to line up and shout at. The strike by the England cricket team was far less solid.

It happened almost a century ago, so although the rugby boys may feel militantly defiant this morning they are way off the pace.

On the morning of England's final Test against Australia on August 10 1886, the Kensington throne had been shoehorned in. But before the teams had changed in the professionals' room at The Oval, almost half the side offered the MCC and the selectors an ultimatum: double their £10 match fee to £20 or they would not take the field.

The strike threat came from five true greats: four Surrey players, Bobby Abel, Tom Richardson, Tom Hayward and George Lohmann, and Nottinghamshire's William Gunn, uncle of John and George and co-founder of the bat-making firm.

The legendary sporting mandarin and Surrey secretary was Charles Alcock and what career threats — or financial inducements — he offered to three of his men can only be imagined, but Abel, Richardson and Hayward finally agreed to take the field.

Lohmann and Gunn stood their ground. Lohmann, one of England's finest bowlers, never played a Test match again. Gunn played only once more — three years later when Nottinghamshire insisted that the local hero play in the 1895 Test at Trent Bridge for "gate" necessities.

The five rebels had pointed out that their allegedly amateur captain, Dr W G Grace, was earning more than £20 for the match. Grace just sneered at them and strode out to bat. But a more sensitive amateur, A E Stoddart — also a rugby international, as it happens —

knew he was earning good money from the game and, embarrassed, withdrew that morning in a sort of solidarity, suddenly developing a "streaming cold".

Alcock combined his summer job at The Oval with the secretaryship of the Football Association. So his autocracy was practised by the time League soccer's fledgling Players' Union threatened to strike in 1908. That was about money too, but also about the feudal retain-and-transfer system. The strike failed when only 45 players dared vote for it after the clubs and the FA threatened life bans.

Two legendary players of their time, Charlie Roberts and Billy Meredith, had tried to inspire it and when it failed Roberts wrote: "I know of no class of workpeople who are less able to look after themselves than footballers. They are like a lot of sheep. They do not see the way to stand for those in need of help. He is a wretched, miserable fool who cannot see what is good for himself and the working man of Great Britain."

**I**T WAS more than half a century before another strike call — by Jimmy Hill of the Professional Footballers' Association.

It allowed some semblance of sense and fairness into professional soccer. Rugby union's action must be seen as necessary as well as sound in principle; the workers are making sure of their clout and muscling in first with their retaliation. If they didn't it might take a century to stand out.

Wimbledon had its tennis strike a quarter of a century ago. It ensured not only an English semi-finalist in Roger Taylor but a new breed of non-shamateur cannon-fodder millionaires. Grand prix motor racers were already the latter; their occasional threats of withholding labour have been on the ground of track safety.

What may niggle at the England rugby squad this morning is that yesterday's revolution may allow Twickenham to pick a new team of non-signatories to the coup. Just as Packer's rebels let in Botham, Gower, Gooch and Gatting.

Just as, at The Oval in 1886, Lohmann's action let in J T Hearn to take 10 wickets. And, in Gunn's place, Essex's Indian Army captain E G Wynard; he batted at No. 7 and made 10 and three.

By all accounts his Raj susceptibilities were strained when the Indian Prince Ranji leaned across to share his grapes at lunch. It was Wynard's solitary home Test.

Robert Armstrong, page 15

**BECKSENTRICS**  
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PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

**Guardian Crossword No 20,750**  
Set by Janus

**Across**

- Lands one with cat-food (7)
- Where intellect is needed to grasp information technology (7)
- Fixed stake over volcano (4)
- Unreasonable share in rail flotation (10)
- Got to include one by this artist! (6)
- Where planes may land to find bearings on voyage (2-6)
- Short on capital for car accessory (9)
- Departure from course conditions (5)
- Deviation from the normal play (5)
- Engages the attention of those standing to gain (9)
- Inclination to write music (8)
- Author having a go at verse (6)

**Down**

- Vandalised phone-boxes foreigners might be wise to shun (10)
- Bring some back in vehicle (4)
- Convenient opportunity to make garland secure (7)
- Properties in Eastern countries (7)
- Window in the French upper room (7)
- General allowance (5)
- Where to come a cropper over oil (7)
- Going round to the club perhaps (6)
- Engine to show how tote works? (3-6)
- One who might well take over first class in Latin? (7)
- Equipment for divers about to engage in ablutions underground (9,4)

**15** Guides for film-makers (9)  
**18** Go first or quietly draw back (7)  
**20** Lays bare former attitudes (7)  
**21** Row involving caterer (7)  
**22** Stout female's parent (6)  
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